

THE TIMES

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 12 1996

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Brian Glanville on which league is best

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THREE NIGHTS AT CLARIDGES

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PREMIUM LINE ENTRY

BEST FOR JOBS

WANTED

- ☐ Executive.....75K
- ☐ Manager.....55K
- ☐ Consultant.....45K
- ☐ Graduate.....30K

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Willetts quits over standards report

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE sleaze row that has dogged John Major for three years claimed another victim yesterday as David Willetts, the Paymaster General, resigned over his part in the cash-for-questions affair.

Mr Willetts, regarded as one of the brightest talents in the Government, "did the honourable thing" within minutes of the publication of a damning all-party report that went close to accusing him of lying in his evidence to the Commons

Standards and Privileges Committee. Soon after receiving the report and digesting the harshness of its attack on his behaviour, Mr Willetts decided to resign. He went from the Cabinet Office where he was based to 10 Downing Street to tell the Prime Minister in person.

Last night, Michael Bates, MP for Langbaurgh, was appointed Paymaster General in succession to Mr Willetts.

Mr Major made no attempt to dissuade Mr Willetts, accepting with the minister that any attempt to ride out calls from Labour for

him to go would do the Government, already reeling from the latest outbreak of open warfare over Europe, more harm than good. Mr Willetts and other ministers also felt that the system of MPs regulating their own behaviour, due to be looked at by the Nolan committee in the next parliament, could have been imperilled further had he stayed on in the face of such criticism. Although it is a big setback to a promising career, by going without a fuss Mr Willetts probably has ensured that he will return to the front bench, in

government or opposition, after a short interval on the back benches.

But senior Conservatives were furious at the action of the committee in forcing the resignation for what they regarded as no more than a mistake. One said: "It is the equivalent of 20 years' hard labour for parking on a double yellow line. It is outrageous." A particular target of their fury was Quentin Davies, the Conservative MP for Stamford and Spalding, who sided with Labour members during the drafting of the report to ensure that its language was so tough.

Mr Willetts, 40, was, as *The Times* disclosed yesterday, accused of "dissembling" in telling the Standards and Privileges Committee of his conduct two years ago when, as a junior whip, he had talked to Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, chairman of the Members' Interests Committee, about its inquiry into the Neil Hamilton cash-for-questions allegations.

It found that the conversation itself, in which Mr Willetts was felt to have tried to influence Sir Geoffrey about how the inquiry should be handled, was improper.

But it reserved its strongest censure for the way Mr Willetts had tried to explain his earlier actions both in a memorandum to the committee and in a torrid evidence session in which he was subjected to fierce questioning by Mr Davies, who accused him of prevarication.

The committee said that Mr Willetts had "dissembled" in his account, substantially aggravating his original offence. The word, carrying its connotations of insincerity and concealing or disguising the truth, was chosen carefully for maximum impact.

But the most damaging sentence followed. The committee had decided that in future "it will be our normal practice to take evidence on oath". Described by a Tory friend as a "knife in the back", the words appeared to Mr Willetts had lied, without precisely saying what the supposed lie was. Mr Willetts was deeply upset by the sentence, which he regarded as an attack on

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Budget fails to turn tide for Tories

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

CONSERVATIVE support has fallen back again after the Budget and two weeks of renewed internal party turmoil over Europe.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times* puts the Tories back at their August level of 30 per cent, three points down on a month ago, with Labour on 51 per cent, up one point, and the Liberal Democrats on 13 per cent, up one.

Kenneth Clarke's last Budget before the general election has made things worse, not better, for his party with the poll showing a big drop in economic optimism and a majority of people concluding that the November 26 package was bad for them personally.

The Government's satisfaction rating has dropped four points to 18 per cent, and Mr Major's personal rating has fallen by six points to 30 per cent.

The survey was taken last weekend at the height of the Tory troubles over the single currency, which culminated in the Prime Minister going on television to try to restore calm to his party.

But one of the results of the concentration on European rows has been a rise in the importance attached to Europe by the public. It has moved up to joint second, behind the health service, in the list of issues people think are of most importance.

MORI interviewed 1,872 adults at 165 sampling points between December 6-9.



Reindeer facing death in Russia's remote Chukotsky territory: their traditional winter grazing grounds have been covered by a sheet of ice after heavy rains last month

Thousands of reindeer could starve to death

FROM RICHARD BERSTON
IN MOSCOW

HERDSMEN in one of Russia's most remote regions were yesterday fighting against the elements to save thousands of reindeer from starving to death because of icy conditions.

According to reports from Russia's northeastern Chukotsky territory, as many as 30,000 reindeer are at risk because heavy rains a month ago were followed by freezing temperatures and blizzards that have covered their traditional winter grazing areas in a thick sheet of ice.

The local authorities have

attempted to break the icy layer over the pastures by towing concrete beams behind a fleet of tractors and other heavy vehicles. The herders have also tried to drive their animals to less affected areas by laying down food trails.

However, rescue efforts have been hampered by appalling weather conditions, a lack of fuel and the sheer remoteness of the region. The Chukotsky territory is located on the Bering Sea opposite Alaska. It has no roads, little infrastructure and the indigenous reindeer herders traditionally rely on their own means to survive the cruel winters on the Arctic tundra.

Igor Cheston, the Director of the World Wide Fund for Nature in Russia, said that the crisis was affecting the tame reindeer herds as well as those living in the wild, which both feed on an Arctic moss that usually sustains them until the spring thaw.

"They are trying to move the herds inland to more protected places, but it is a difficult job," he said. "In some areas entire herds have been wiped out to the last animal. Often the reindeer break through the ice with their hooves and then find themselves stuck fast and unable to dig themselves out. They die where they stand."

He said that WWF was

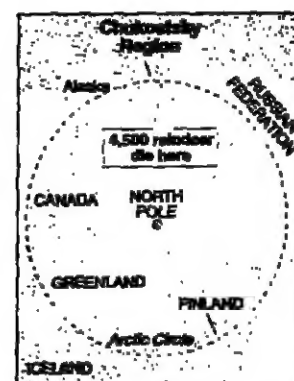
planning to launch a scheme next year to help indigenous populations in Siberia to develop a more sustainable model of reindeer farming, but admitted there was little his charity could do in the current crisis to help out.

A desperate bulletin received by Russia's Ministry of Emergency Situations yesterday reported that more than 1,000 reindeer had died in the past 24 hours. Since the famine was first reported over the weekend more than 4,500 animals have perished. Local authorities predict that the famine could decimate the total reindeer population of 240,000, which in turn will

destroy a large part of the local economy.

Washington: Animal rights campaigners in Washington said last night they were investigating the situation in the Chukotsky peninsula and may lobby the United States Government to take action to save the reindeer (Tom Rhodes writes).

Bill Eichbaum, vice-president of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, said aid groups of hay would probably be the best immediate solution to assist the starving mammals and he thought that Alaska's relative proximity to the region might make such a mission feasible.



FBI told of Iran link to bombing

The FBI has received information from the Saudi Arabian Government which claims that the bombing of a United States military complex in Dhahran last June was carried out by Saudi Shia Muslim extremists sponsored by Iran.

Details of confessions extracted from at least 40 Shiites were passed to the FBI's director last month. Page 15

Shell invests £6bn on new oilfields

Shell Oil is planning to invest up to \$10 billion (£6 billion) over the next four years in deep-water oil production in the Gulf of Mexico.

The US subsidiary of the Anglo-Dutch oil company has more than eight undiscovered projects in preparation. Shell is the largest leaseholder in gulf waters deeper than 15,000 ft. Page 25

Morrissey loses royalties fight

Morrissey, leader of the 1980s pop group The Smiths, was described by a High Court judge yesterday as "devious, truculent and unreliable" as the singer lost his legal battle over the group's earnings.

Mike Joyce, the group's drummer, won his claim that he was entitled to 25 per cent of the record royalties, estimated at £1 million. Page 3

Drivers 'should pay bill for crash victims'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS should pay for the hospital treatment of those people they injure in accidents, the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, said yesterday.

Under radical proposals that would send motorists' insurance premiums rocketing, the National Health Service could recoup treatment costs from the person the courts decide was to blame.

The Commission estimates that the plan, to be studied by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, would enable the NHS to recover nearly £100 million a year. The move would shift the cost of treating road accident victims from the taxpayer to motorists.

The Law Commission says a "strong case" can be made for enabling the NHS to claw back its costs in all personal injury cases when someone has been held by the courts to be negligent. That would include any accident - at work, for example, or involving a drug manufacturer or a public authority.

Professor Andrew Burrows, of the Law Commission, said: "We think it is particularly important to raise for public

debate the question as to whether the NHS should be given a right to recoup, from those who negligently cause injury, the cost of free health care provided to victims."

At present, he added, it can be argued that the person to blame is being let off because the bill is picked up by the state. "Not only does the NHS lose, the wrongdoer gains."

Private medical insurers are able to recoup treatment costs from defendants' insurers and, the Law Commission says, it can be argued that the NHS should benefit, too.



There are precedents: the Department of Social Security can "claw back" benefits from accident victims who win compensation, and the NHS and other health providers can recoup a small, limited percentage of treatment costs in road accident cases.

The Commission suggests that the NHS should have a claim against the defendant where the victim has sued for negligence and won damages. The cost of treating all accident victims is £1 billion a year, but only 12 per cent are successful in bringing negligence claims. This means the NHS stands to recoup some £120 million, which the Commission estimates would come down to £90 million to £100 million after costs.

Insurance companies last night warned the Law Commission not to single out motorists. Rebecca Hadley, for AA Insurance, said: "Why make motorists the only people in the population who have to pay?"

Damages for Personal Injury: Medical, Nursing and Other Expenses - the Cost of Care (Consultation Paper 144, HMSO, £13).

Willie Rushton dies after heart surgery

By ALAN HAMILTON

WILLIE RUSHTON, the comedian and satirist, died yesterday after heart bypass surgery in London's Cromwell Hospital. Mr Rushton, who was 59, had been only briefly ill and his death shocked his friends.

Married with three sons, he was one of the founders in 1961 of the magazine *Private Eye* and was a regular performer on *That Was The Week That Was*, the BBC satirical television show, in the 1960s. As recently as last weekend he appeared on *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*, BBC Radio 4's comedy quiz.

Ian Hislop, the editor of

Private Eye, said: "He was a brilliant cartoonist and produced some of the best and funniest drawings of people in public life in recent decades. I feel very sad to learn of his death; it was very sudden."

Richard Ingrams, the magazine's former editor, who attended Shrewsbury School with Mr Rushton together with Paul Foot and Christopher Booker, both fellow-institigators of the 1960s satirical movement, said: "I think he was the most talented of my contemporaries by far. He had a brilliant, spontaneous wit. He was a brilliant improviser and a bit of a Falstaffian figure."

John Wells, a fellow-comedian, said: "The great thing about Willie was that he was universally loved. He was very funny to everyone he met. There was no division between private and public character."

The death rate during coronary artery surgery in the best hospitals is below 1 per cent, but these odds would have been fractionally worse in Mr Rushton's case because he had had diabetes for several years.



Rushton: "a bit of a Falstaffian figure"

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RISE IN DAMP

WALL GUARD

Who needs Opposition with support like this?

If the Opposition had wanted to point the moral of yesterday's European debate at Westminster, they could have done so without uttering a sound. One by one, Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs could have slipped silently from the Chamber. They would have left an exasperated Chancellor in ill-tempered debate with his own party.

Labour had simply become irrelevant. In a sense, we, the public, were irrelevant. This was an embarrassing family row. Here was a big debate on a big topic, with views both ways held vehemently, and many personal resentments. Here was one side questioning the good faith of the other. And all

within the Tory party! It was an Alice-through-the-looking-glass world: a Chancellor thumping the table — while jeers came, not from opposite him, but from behind. There were even cheers for Clarke from Labour.

When the Opposition cheered they outnumbered the scattering of Tories determined to support him. The right noises were coming from the wrong places. It was as though the Chamber had been wired up wrongly, or the wrong soundtrack attached to a videotape. To a commentator accustomed to view the Commons as a place where party explains everything, the disjunction was unsettling.

The occasion was not a dramatic



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

one, and it would be unfair to say that the Tory party sent its Chancellor packing. At the start there were some noisy Tory jeers for some of Mr Clarke's views, but the dissidents soon settled down to assailing his speech, from behind, with low, grumbling interruptions and poisonous glances.

What angered Euro-sceptics was not his recitation of the practical pros and cons of a single European currency, but his refusal to see it as a constitutional question. Your core

Euro-sceptic believes (even if he will not admit it) that a single currency removes sovereignty and should be resisted even if it would work. Clarke believes it should be resisted only if it would not work.

The PM believes that until we know whether it would work, we can defer the constitutional question. But yesterday Clarke answered it. He was asked by the Liberal Democrats' Malcolm Bruce, whether, if the practical difficulties were ironed out, he

would join a single currency? Yes, said Clarke. "I would probably be in favour of joining."

John Major does not give this answer. That Mr Clarke does may seem a nuance, but it is an important one. It crumbles the Euro-sceptics.

Their practical objections to the single currency are rather like the objections of one who opposes a trip to the zoo on the grounds that it might rain but in his heart simply prefers to stay at home. He is secretly nervous that someone will quote a favourable weather report. The sceptics are secretly nervous that the practical objections to EMU might be answered. In this case, Clarke leaves them with no

shelter. Major leaves a chance of shelter. I noticed the Prime Minister look stonily down as Clarke kicked it nonchalantly aside.

Outside the Chamber, Tory MPs were all talking about the Willets resignation. Words like "decent" and "honourable" filled the air. Poppycock! Mr Willets has simply done the best thing for his career. In the thick of Charles Stewart Parnell's difficulties, arising from his adulterous affair with Kitty O'Shea, Cecil Rhodes cabled him from South Africa:

"Resign stop marry stop return." The same advice, *mutatis mutandis*, goes to Mr Willets, probably the only junior whip to know what *mutatis mutandis* means.

Eleventh death in E. coli epidemic

The death toll in Scotland's E. coli 0157 epidemic rose to 11 yesterday and a second butcher's shop remained closed, as a London-based firm of loss adjusters offered a "no win, no fee" deal to sue for compensation. The loss adjusters MPC & Company were to meet victims of the food poisoning outbreak last night, to set up a "strong and unified" group to take legal action. But the company's arrival was criticised as "invasive and unnecessary" by the Law Society of Scotland. There are currently five Scottish legal firms involved.

Quarantine call

The RSPCA called yesterday for an end to quarantine controls on dogs and cats from the European Union and a number of other countries. Its ruling council said it was satisfied that controls were unnecessary for pets from countries recognised as rabies-free.

Irish jobs boost

The computer company IBM is expected to confirm later this week that it will create about 2,500 new jobs by establishing a £100 million centre in Dublin. It would raise the number of Irish jobs created by foreign investment this year to 19,000.

Highland grant

A £16 million grant towards a high-tech university in the Highlands and Islands, linking existing institutions with distance learning, was announced by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary. The Millennium Commission has committed £35.5 million.

Orange master

Robert Saulters, grand master of the Belfast County Lodge, has been appointed master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, responsible for many of the parades in Ulster over the summer. Mr Saulters succeeds the Rev Martin Smyth, who held the post for 24 years.

IRA man talks

An IRA terrorist-turned-police informer told the Conservative-backed Northern Ireland Committee in the Commons that a new ceasefire by republicans would be tactical. Sean O'Callaghan was released last week after eight years of a life sentence for murder.

Jet crash inquiry

An inquiry began yesterday into why two Danish pilots ejected from their jet fighter as it approached Swaffham, Norfolk, on a training flight last week. The empty F16, which had an engine fire, passed the town at 1,000ft and crashed half a mile from a school.

PC trial halted

The Old Bailey trial of PC Patrick Hodgson, 40, who denies murdering a suspected car thief, was halted for legal reasons and the jury discharged. He will face a retrial. David Ewin, 38, was shot and fatally wounded in Barnes, southwest London, last year.

Fiennes gives up

Sir Ranulph Fiennes, 53, has abandoned his attempt to become the first man to walk solo 1,800 miles across Antarctica. He has suffered a recurrence of kidney stones. His two distress flares were spotted by his back up team.

Thomas Stamford, page 18

Minister sealed his downfall with wrong evidence

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID WILLETS'S political fate was sealed by three damning sentences of a report that cast serious doubt on his honesty. MPs were astonished at the severity and bluntness of the report's conclusions, which directly accused the minister of having given inaccurate evidence to the all-party Standards and Privileges Committee, the Commons' disciplinary body.

The 11 senior MPs on the committee concluded that "we cannot accept much of [Mr Willets's] memorandum, nor much of his oral evidence, as being accurate". They continued: "We are very concerned that any member should dissemble in his account to the committee and believe that this response by Mr Willets has substantially aggravated the original offence."

The final conclusion, while not specifically referring to Mr Willets, was seen as the most damaging and effectively killed off his chance of survival

as a minister: the committee announced that it would change more than 200 years of parliamentary tradition by making it "our normal practice to take evidence on oath".

The nine-page report chronicles a string of contradictions and inconsistencies in the evidence given to MPs by Mr Willets, MP for Havant, and Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, a senior Tory MP. The inquiry centred initially on a brief conversation between the two and a note hurriedly written by Mr Willets shortly afterwards, which was leaked.

In October 1994, Mr Willets, then a newly appointed whip, met Sir Geoffrey, chairman of the now defunct Members' Interests Select Committee, which was about to investigate cash-for-questions allegations against Neil Hamilton, the former Trade Minister. The two men discussed the possibility of postponing an inquiry into Mr Hamilton because of a pending

libel action. Mr Willets's short note afterwards for fellow whips said: "He (Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith) could: (i) argue now *sub judice* and get committee to set it aside, or (ii) investigate it as quickly as possible, exploiting good Tory majority at present. We were inclined to go for (i) but he wants our advice."

Mr Willets suggested later that his note was not an accurate version of the conversation, and that it had "an artificial structure" that wrongly gave the impression that he had influenced Sir Geoffrey. The committee concludes that the note "was a broadly accurate account of the conversation", but it suggests that Mr Willets "as a new whip, was keen to impress the Chief Whip" by suggesting possible options.

The MPs concede that there is no evidence that Mr Willets "set out to influence Sir Geoffrey or that he succeeded in doing so. At the most, he imposed a structure on Sir Geoffrey's thoughts and reinforced his judgment, and put himself in a position where he could have influenced him subsequently had the opportunity arisen."

The report criticises Sir Geoffrey for taking part in the discussion and Mr Willets for discussing the work of the Members' Interests Committee with its chairman. "We regard the conversation as having gone beyond what properly should have taken place."

The MPs draw attention to Sir Geoffrey's denial, in evidence, that he had sought advice from Mr Willets. "This is a direct contradiction of the

original note [written by Mr Willets]. We are prepared to believe that Sir Geoffrey's denial was sincere but conclude that his oral evidence was somewhat confused and that he could not provide a clear account of the conversation."

The committee, which broke with tradition by questioning the two MPs in public, acknowledges that the Commons' disciplinary system is on trial. There is mounting pressure for an outside body to be appointed to handle complaints about MPs. The report says: "The system of self-regulation which Parliament has established cannot function if Members are not frank and open about mistakes that they may have made."

Mr Willets in his resignation letter to the Prime Minister said that he was very sorry that his integrity had been called into question. He said that he had told the truth when he had appeared before the committee and that he

Bruce Anderson, page 20
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David Willets and his wife Sarah outside their home yesterday, after his resignation as Paymaster-General

Minister quits over report

Continued from page 1
his integrity, and it clearly was central to his decision. The committee also said: "The system of self-regulation which Parliament has established cannot function if members are not open about mistakes that they may have made in the past."

He said that he would continue to support the Government from the back benches. Mr Major, in reply, said that he much regretted his decision to resign, but accepted his reasons for doing so. "It is consistent with the dignified way that you have conducted yourself that you feel it right to stand down from the Government in the light of this report," he said.

Mr Willets originally had faced accusations that he had tried to interfere in the committee's investigation into Mr Hamilton's role in the cash-

for-questions affair. The "Willets memorandum" appeared to suggest that he and Sir Geoffrey had discussed ways in which the Government could secure a favourable outcome to the investigation into Mr Hamilton.

The note, written in October 1994, suggested that the committee could get the inquiry set aside by arguing that the matter was *sub judice*. Or it could investigate the matter as quickly as possible, "exploiting the good Tory majority" on the committee.

Mr Willets has strongly denied any attempt to put pressure on the committee.

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WILLETS'S WORD

To dissemble falls in the bottom half of the league table of verbs of dishonesty. It means to conceal deliberately and by pretence, ie, to "dissimulate", which with "resemble" influenced the unusual formation of the word. Two of the best illustrations of its meaning come from the 1662 Prayer Book, which is a thesaurus of precise English as well as sound morality. After the introductory sentences of Morning Prayer, the minister says: "Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of God our heavenly Father..." Psalm 12 runs: "They do but flatter with their lips, and dissemble in their double heart." There may be worse forms of dishonesty than dissembling, which can be no more than being "economical with the truth". But it is still a kind of deliberate dishonesty. When accused of it, the honourable man has to resign.

Christmas tree plan divides Dunblane

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

DUNBLANE appeared deeply divided yesterday for the first time since the March shootings, in a dispute over parents' wishes to erect a Christmas tree in the cemetery where most of Thomas Hamilton's young victims are buried.

An announcement on spending plans for the bulk of the £7.3 million donated by well-wishers after the massacre, first reported in *The Times* on Monday, failed to divert attention from the argument which began when Stirling Council refused parents permission to place a decorated tree near the children's graves.

Councillors held an emergency meeting to reconsider their position yesterday after calls flooded in from around the country supporting the

parents. The meeting decided to hold a telephone poll of Dunblane residents on the issue. Families of the victims backed by Dunblane Community Council, accused councillors of making a "private request into a public circus".

However, Stirling Council said it had received a number of objections to the plan from other people with relatives buried in the cemetery — who thought the tree was "insensitive" — and alternative sites for a tree outside the cemetery had been rejected by the families.

Councillor Ann Dickson, representing Dunblane East, said: "This is the first time anyone has said No to the families, and I am very sorry that they have made so much of it. I am afraid to say that the people of Dunblane think enough is enough. They are saying: 'We have supported you for nine long

months, but in this we cannot support you. We cannot have Dunblane lost in a time war of March 13, we have got to get on with our lives'."

Johnnie MacLaine, 61, grandfather of Megan Turner, who was murdered in the school shootings, accused the council of deepening divisions in the community. He said: "The families wanted the tree at the front of the semi-circle of graves for their children, for their kids to see it. I know we're talking a kind of nonsense really, but that was their feeling."

The dispute overshadowed the announcement of spending plans by trustees of the two main funds set up after the killings: The Dunblane Fund, which stands at £4.5 million, and the Stirling Observer Dunblane Help Fund, which stands at £1.7 million. In a joint statement, the two trusts con-

firmed that the bulk of the £6.2 million will go in compensation payments to families of the dead and injured via The Dunblane Fund.

For the past two months, a specially appointed fund agent has been assessing each family's individual needs. Some interim payments have already been made. All details are confidential. The trustees said that a swimming pool or community centre was likely to be the project chosen to benefit the wider community, largely paid through the *Stirling Observer's* charitable trust.

Work has already started on a joint project to create a landscaped memorial garden in the cemetery. An estimated £1.1 million is held in a third fund run by the Dunblane Primary School Board and Parent Teacher Association, to benefit the primary

Costs dispute threatens Millennium display

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE FUTURE of the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich looked uncertain last night as assurances were demanded on the project's spiralling budget. An all-day meeting of the Millennium Commission broke up without a decision on whether £200 million of lottery funds would be put towards the £700 million cost of building the planned dome.

The commissioners, who include the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, and the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, will hold

an emergency meeting today. It is expected that they will give the money but only if certain conditions are met by Millennium Central, the organisers of the exhibition.

The Government wants to reassure private investors, who must put up £150 million, by making lottery cash available as a contingency fund. But Labour is anxious that no more public money is spent and says significant problems remain. Without a promise that a Labour government would underwrite it, the scheme would fail.

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'Truculent' Morrissey loses legal fight over £1m royalties



Joyce has new band

MORRISSEY, leader of the 1980s group The Smiths, was described by a High Court judge yesterday as "devious, truculent and unreliable" as the singer lost his legal battle over the group's earnings.

Mike Joyce, the group's drummer, won his claim that he was entitled to 25 per cent of the four-man band's profits for record royalties and performances. It was estimated yesterday that he will receive about £1 million.

Morrissey and Johnny Marr, The Smiths' guitarist, were contesting a claim by Joyce that profits from the group's recordings had been unfairly split, with 40 per cent each going to the two frontline stars and the rest

shared between him and Andy Rourke, the bass player.

The judgment means that Morrissey and Marr will have to pay their former drummer from their own pockets. They are also liable for legal costs of around £250,000 for the seven-day hearing.

Morrissey was not in court to hear the judgment go against him. Marr, flanked by his lawyers, left looking shocked, pale and refusing to comment.

Joyce, 33, who is hoping for chart success with his new, two-man band *Wah Now*, said he brought the case because he was concerned about the future of his daughters Fay, eight, and Olivia, three. He said: "I am delighted but, at the moment, I just feel a bit shocked. I want to go home

and see my wife and my children whom I have missed over the past couple of weeks. I did not bring this action for the money. No lifestyles are going to change here."

After a seven-day hearing, Judge Weeks said he preferred the evidence of Joyce and Rourke, who had dropped out of the action after accepting £83,000. Describing the "credibility" of the four partners, the judge said Joyce and Rourke impressed him as "straightforward and honest", although without great intellectual ability.

"Morrissey was more complicated and didn't find giving evidence easy or a happy experience. He was devious, truculent and unreliable when his own interests were at stake," The judge said Marr was "a

more engaging personality" and "a more reasonable character" and the most intelligent of the four "but seemed to me to be willing to embroider his evidence to a point where he became less credible."

The judge said there was no evidence of a 40-40, 10-10 agreement for splitting the profits and there never was an assumption by Joyce and Rourke that that was what they would get.

The Smiths, formed in 1982, achieved considerable success before disbanding in 1987. Morrissey, now pursuing a solo career, was the dominant character who kept a tight grip on the purse strings. He treated the lesser known members of the band merely as session musicians, it was claimed. After the group split up

Joyce discovered, for the first time, that the profits had not been shared equally. He began a legal action to recover royalties for the recordings and profits from the concerts by the group, paid to a company called Smithdom Ltd.

The action was originally brought by both Joyce and Rourke but the bass player, who had fought a battle with heroin addiction, was "desperately short of money" and settled in 1989 for £83,000 and 10 per cent of future record royalties, giving up all further claims.

After the hearing, Morrissey said in a statement: "I am disappointed and surprised at the judge's decision. I will be considering the terms of the judgment with my solicitors to assess possible grounds for appeal."



Morrissey: not in court

Archaeologist saves face of Roman who fell by the wayside

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE carved head of a soldier who fought in the Roman conquest of Britain has been found and will be reunited with the rest of his tombstone in a Colchester museum.

Longinus was a cavalryman who fought with Emperor Claudius and died at the age of 40 in about AD 48. The tombstone, carved in deep relief, shows him on his horse, towering over a naked and supplicant Briton.

The stone, erected by the side of the main Roman road between London and Colchester, was found in 1928, in excellent repair but missing the face of Longinus. The assumption was that it had been toppled deliberately soon after it was erected, perhaps at the time of Boadicea's revolt in AD 60, and that the face had been hacked off.

This colourful story now seems less likely, as the face has been found in a new dig at the very site where the tombstone was originally discovered. Peter Berridge, of the



The missing head of the cavalryman Longinus

Colchester Archaeological Group, when redevelopment of the site made a fresh excavation possible. Mr Fawn, 67, found an oval piece of stone and was amazed when he turned it over. "There was this face staring at me," he said. "It was a marvellous moment."

He rang the museum to say that he might have found the face of Longinus. Staff rushed to the site, drove him back to the museum and cheered with delight as he placed it against the stone, where it fitted perfectly. "It was my most exciting find since I became interested in archaeology in 1962," Mr Fawn, a retired ICI manager, said.

Mr Berridge said that the museum planned to reassemble the face with the rest of the stone after studying how best to attach it. "It fits like a glove," he said.

"If it had been deliberately defaced by Boadicea, we would not think about putting it back because the missing head would have been part of



Peter Berridge with tombstone and head. They were probably parted accidentally, not by Boadicea's rebels

history. But because it now appears that it was lost accidentally we can put it back without fearing that we are interfering in the past."

An inscription on the stone shows that Longinus came from Sofia, in what is now

Bulgaria, and served with the Roman legions as an auxiliary cavalryman with a sergeant's rank. He served for 15 years and, when he died, most likely of natural causes, he left instructions for his heirs to raise the stone beside the

main road. It also features the winged figure of a sphinx, a symbol of death in the ancient world, sitting between two lions and two snakes. "When the carving was first made it was a symbol of the might of the Roman Empire crushing

barbarians," Mr Berridge said. "Then it became a symbol of Boadicea's revolt, when it was thought to have been deliberately defaced. Now it looks like the history books will have to be rewritten again."

Rape case soldiers in court

By Adrian Lee

FOUR Army officers and two officer cadets were remanded in custody yesterday, jointly charged with raping a woman at the Royal Military College of Science in Shrivenham, Wiltshire, in May.

The alleged victim, a 27-year-old civilian, is a student at another college. The six accused, all members of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, are: Captain Philip Bates, 25, of Bordon, Hampshire; Captain Ian Barlow, 26, of Warrington, Suffolk; Lieutenant Darren Bartlett, 23, of Arborfield, Reading; Lieutenant Matthew Tupling, 23, of Bordon; Cadet Andrew Stout, 20, of Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne; and Cadet Nicholas Oettinger, 20, of Preston, Lancashire.

Five had previously been remanded in custody and will face court again at Wantage, Oxfordshire, in a month. Captain Barlow, who was on bail, was remanded for a week.

Vicar and curate resign over their adulterous affair

By Bill Frost

A VICAR and his curate have resigned after admitting an adulterous relationship. A Church of England spokesman said last night that an affair between married ministers was unprecedented.

The Rev Andrew Raymont, who has two children, and the Rev Helen Quinn, who has three, said they could no longer continue to hold office in the same parish "with integrity". The pair, who worked at St Margaret's Church in Catton, Norwich, plan to marry once divorced from their present partners.

Mrs Quinn, 50, said yesterday: "We have known each other for over two years and we have realised that our relationship has become personal, that we love one another and our hope is, in due course, to marry."

"As we are both already married we believe that this intention is incompatible with continuing in ordained ministry."

The Right Rev Peter Nott, Bishop of Norwich, said last night that he had accepted the resignations with regret. "As priests and as public representatives of Christ's Church, they recognised that they cannot with integrity continue to

hold office in the Church. I am sad that their relationship has meant the end of the ministries of two gifted priests."

Mr Raymont left his parish after breaking the news of the relationship to his congregation from the pulpit. Mrs Quinn, who was last night at her family home in Taverham, Norwich, declined to comment further.

A parishioner, who refused to be named, described himself as a friend to both Mr Raymont and his estranged wife, Jenny. "They've left. I can't tell you where they've gone because I don't know - nobody does," he said.

The Rev Terry Patient, who has taken over until a new vicar is appointed, said that the congregation had been "much saddened by events". He added: "Of course we are missing them, but there has been a lot of support in the parish. I have not noticed any drop in the congregation and things are carrying on as they were."

Mr Raymont was regarded as a pioneering cleric in the parish. He increased the size of the congregation and was particularly enthusiastic about encouraging families to worship together.

Gunman kills head of failed companies

By Emma Watkins

A BUSINESSMAN with a string of failed companies was shot dead in the driveway of his farmhouse moments after getting out of his sports car. Richard Watson, 55, some of whose former companies are in liquidation and administration, was killed as he closed the gates to his £400,000 home in East Grinstead.

Mr Watson, who was married with four adult children, was shot in the chest from close range and died instantly. His daughter Amanda, 23, heard the shot and ran outside to her father while his wife, Linda, dialled 999.

Mr Watson had earlier been the victim of an attack with a stun gun, according to a neighbour. He had been working as a computer consultant with Trafalgar Computers Ltd in East Grinstead. Staff refused to comment.

Detective Superintendent Paul Westwood appealed for witnesses to the killing, at 7.45pm on Tuesday. He said: "Mr Watson was confronted by his killer and shot once in the chest."

A man in his 20s was arrested on Tuesday night but was released on police bail after questioning.

Censor admits helplessness in face of film violence

By Alexandra Froom, Media Correspondent

THE box-office success of macho Hollywood heroes such as Sylvester Stallone, Steven Seagal and Arnold Schwarzenegger is to blame for the high levels of cinema violence, Britain's chief film censor said yesterday.

James Ferman, director of the British Board of Film Classification, said in a letter to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, that world cinema now faced a problem unique in its history. In the past five years, the most successful film heroes... had been the most violent.

"Teenagers cannot be blamed for seeking out such films. We live in a market economy in which millions of pounds are invested in films and millions more in promot-

ing them. Teenagers are targeted by the advertisers. They would have to be superhuman to resist," he said.

He warned that it was "the indulgence in violent emotions and aggressive acts" in films that excited the viewer, promoted aggression and taught criminal techniques.

In the past three years the BBFC had made more than 900 cuts to 369 violent videos, amounting to more than six hours. Such cuts, however, could not change the culture of the film if it was dedicated to violence.

"The solution is beyond the reach of British law. The real solution is for Hollywood to wake up with a conscience. But I have my doubts. There's too much money at stake."

Mr Ferman said BBFC research showed that in 1996 27 per cent of people thought videos were a major factor contributing to violence but films containing the most gratuitous violence generated the fewest complaints because their audiences regarded them as "sheer entertainment".

Mr Ferman also announced new measures to try to curb film violence. They included tightening the controls on violent imagery in film trailers, posters, and promotions, and encouraging the industry to stop promoting violent films to children, particularly on Saturday morning television, and to condemn the cynical marketing of violence.

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Humming a hymn 'can calm road rage'

Drivers urged to take the highway to heaven

By Ruth Gladhill
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTIAN drivers, tempted by aggression on the roads have been given their own highway code and special hymns to help them turn the other cheek as road rage motorists pass by on the wrong side.

The Christian Road Safety Association yesterday disclosed its ten commandments for peace on the roads. Drivers are urged to begin with a prayer, remember that alcohol goes in the radiator not the driver and to end every safe journey with thanksgiving.

A collection of hymns and prayers gives harassed drivers a chance to keep calm by humming. "Whatever else we do each day, we strive to keep ahead. We try to turn the other cheek, stop when we see the light is red."

The hymns have been collected from road-safety events and services in all denominations through the 60 years of the association's life, and one 37-year-old hymn shows that "road rage" is not a new expression. It pleads: "Dear Lord we ask your blessing on all who use the road. Remove road rage distressing to lives both young and old. We know that you will hear us, and in your love and grace, give kind unselfish feelings, to this fast-moving race."

The association's secretary, Eric Thorn, who has built up the collection as well as writing his own hymns, said: "We are particularly concerned about road rage, which seems to be an ever increasing problem, but it was referred to in a verse written years ago. Hopefully, people who find themselves in a confrontation on

MOTORING'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Begin with a prayer
- If you start late, arrive late
- Alcohol is for the radiator, not the operator
- If entry into the flow of traffic is facilitated by the courtesy of another driver, wave in appreciation
- If you have inadvertently endangered the safe passage of another vehicle, wave as an apology
- Make it easy for aggressive opportunity snatchers to get ahead of you - far ahead
- So drive that the sudden appearance of a patrol car is a pleasant sight
- Give plenty of space to cars marked with dents
- Never accelerate, and decelerate if advisable, when another car wishes to enter your lane
- End every trip with a prayer of thanksgiving

the road will think of one of our verses and it will help them calm down. If just one person stops and thinks about their actions before resorting to violence, then we have achieved something."

The association's *Ten Rules of the Road* are to be published soon in its 1997 members' handbook, and hymns to cultivate a more spiritual approach to driving are in *Road Safety Services and Hymns*, out this week.

Drivers can sing "Oh, may we heed the Highway Code, and witness to those on the road", to the tune associated more often with *For Those In Peril On The Sea*. The tune from *The Church's One Foundation* has been used for the lyric: "Dear Lord, we ask your blessing on all who use the road."

A prayer asks that "my vehicle be an instrument of your purpose, bringing happiness to all who travel with me, and leaving nobody weeping at my passing". Other verses seek deliverance from "domineering driving" and "the

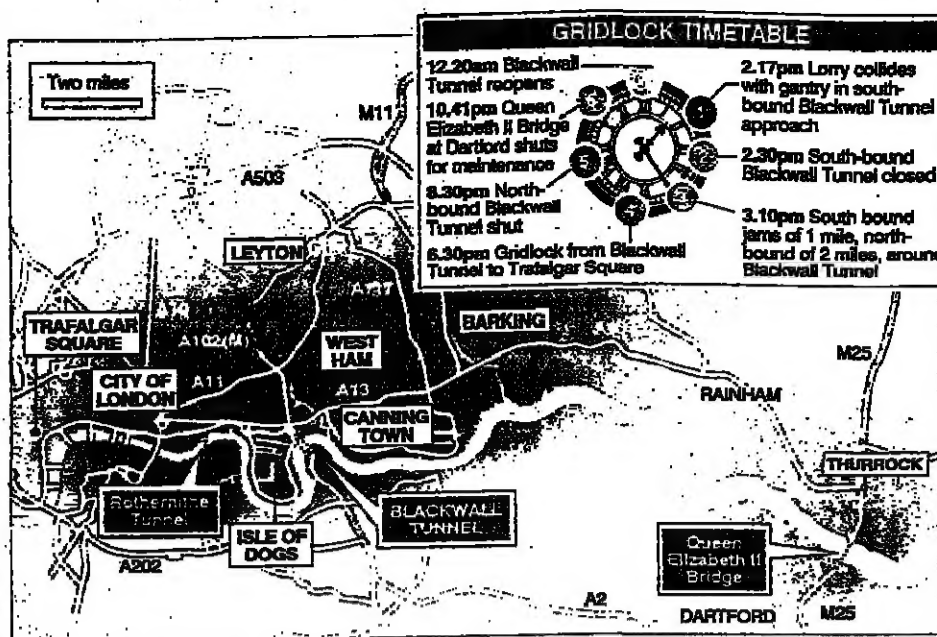
infection of speed". Prayers offer support for teenagers wanting to pass their test and there are words of solace for families who have lost loved ones in traffic accidents.

The Christian Road Safety Association was founded by the late Barbara Mackie, who was appointed MBE for her services to road safety. It aims to bring about a more Christian atmosphere on the roads.

Tony Martlew, the chairman, said he was particularly concerned about the recent incidents of "road rage", and added: "This has taken up our prayer time and concern for the past couple of years."

"So much of everybody's time is taken up with travel, I am sure the Lord is concerned with this aspect of our lives. If someone is tailgating you, it is a horrible feeling. You are driving along minding your own business and someone is so close you can't even see your own bumper. It is easy to get het up and in a rage, and to panic. What we have to think is road safety first. Keep your cool, move over as soon as it is safe, and let these idiots go by."

The Christian Road Safety Association, based in Crawley, West Sussex, survives by donations and the new £4.50 hymnbook is the first publication that it has charged for. It has 4,000 members worldwide and, in keeping with its Christian principles, membership is entirely free.



Eight-hour gridlock a taste of things to come, motorists told

THE eight-hour traffic jam that brought the City of London and the East End to a standstill on Tuesday was a taste of things to come, motorists organisations said yesterday. Drivers will regularly have to endure gridlock because of the rising number of vehicles on the capital's already overcrowded roads (Jonathan Fryn writes).

Thousands of motorists were stranded after a lorry smashed into a gantry at the southbound entrance to the Blackwall Tunnel. The tunnel was closed for ten hours. Stationary traffic was reported on every road within a 3½-mile radius. Shortly before 11pm the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge at Dartford was closed for maintenance. Edmund King, head of campaigns at the RAC, said that

the incident had given a foretaste of future congestion. "London has fewer river crossings than any city of its size and disruption on a bridge or in a tunnel has a disproportionate effect." The driver of the lorry, who was not injured, had passed a series of height warnings on the tunnel approach.

Leading article, page 21

SATURDAY

IN THE TIMES

directory

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Your three-week guide to television, radio and satellite for the holiday, in the Directory

EASY DOES IT

James Bone meets Tony Bennett, in the Magazine

PLUS

CAR 96 and WEEKEND MONEY

MPs' chauffeurs poised to strike

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

FRESH talks were held in Whitehall last night to try to prevent a strike by government chauffeurs, which may force some ministers and senior civil servants to make their own way to work.

Secret contingency arrangements were being made, but some of the 110 MPs and officials who usually have a chauffeur may have to travel by taxi, hire car or public transport next week.

Roger Freeman, the Public Services Minister, ordered fresh discussions yesterday with the drivers' union, the Transport and General Workers'. The chauffeurs voted for industrial action after plans to cut their £9.30 daily meal

allowances were disclosed. The negotiators were also discussing a pay rise of about 3.3 per cent. The drivers earn £4.66 an hour plus allowances for unsocial hours. A union spokesman said: "We are looking at indefinite action to achieve a proper settlement."

The strike, due to start Tuesday, would not affect the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Northern Ireland Secretary and the Defence Secretary, who are considered high-security risks and have armoured cars. A spokesman for Mr Freeman said: "We are hopeful of resolving this dispute. We hope that ministers will not have to walk to work."

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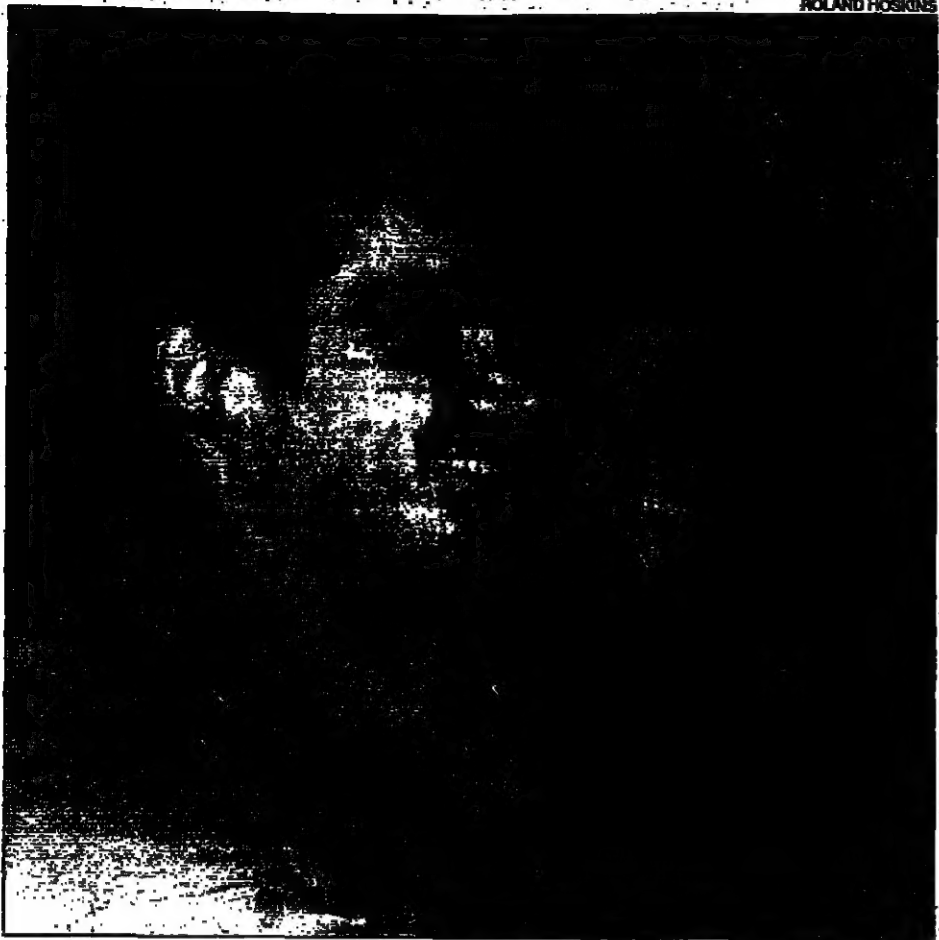
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'Middle-class' bombers convicted of embassy attack



Mahmoud Abu Wardah and his sister leaving the Old Bailey after his acquittal

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO Palestinians educated into British middle-class life were convicted at the Old Bailey yesterday of plotting the bombing of the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish charity two years ago. They will be sentenced next week.

Samar Alami, 30, from South Kensington, west London, and Jawad Botmeh, 27, an electrical exporter from Bloomsbury, central London, put to use scientific skills they had learnt as postgraduate students.

Two car bombs exploded at the embassy in Kensington Gardens and the charity in Finchley, north London, in July 1994, causing millions of pounds worth of damage. Nobody was injured.

Botmeh and Alami, who believed that the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, was misguided in his attempts to come to an accommodation with Israel, struck the day after Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and King Hussein of Jordan had signed the Washington Declaration, apparently paving the way for peace between them.

Responsibility for the blasts was claimed by a hitherto unknown terrorist group called the Palestinian Resistance Jaffa Group Palestine in

letters posted to two Arabic newspapers and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's offices in London.

Alami used her training as a chemical engineer at Imperial College, London, to make the explosive for the bombs. A member of one of the four most prestigious families in the Palestinian world, she was born in Beirut, where her father headed an Arab bank.

Lord Gilmour of Craigmillar, the former Cabinet minister, stood surety for £10,000 of her bail, which included £500,000 from her family, and gave evidence on her behalf. Pauline Cutting, a British doctor known for her work in the Palestinian camps, also gave evidence for her. The Labour MPs Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn and Harry Cohen lent their names to a defence group for Alami and Botmeh.

Botmeh was born in Bitur, near Bethlehem, the son of a former bank official. He put the bombs together and has an MSc in electrical engineering from King's College, London.

His English wife and friends in the public gallery burst into tears as he was convicted yesterday at the end of the nine-week trial.

A third man, Mahmoud



Jawad Botmeh and Samar Alami were said to have learnt bomb-making skills at university in London

Abu Wardah, 26, was found not guilty of conspiring to cause explosions and possessing an explosive substance and firearms. Earlier in the trial Nadia Zekra, 49, who was accused of planting the bomb, was found not guilty on the orders of Mr Justice Garland after he said the evidence against her was suspect.

Detectives described Alami and Botmeh as salon revolutionaries who crossed over from protest to violence. They used terrorist texts from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Che Guevara but no links to other terrorist groups were found.

Alami developed an explosive called triacetone triperoxide from freely available chemicals. The formula she used for the explosive, which is very powerful and leaves no trace, was set out in a textbook by a former head of Yasser Arafat's bodyguard and later found by police.

Detectives also recovered three handguns and two more bombs which were ready to be used. They are still searching for a middle-aged woman who planted the Embassy bomb, and other members of the gang. Detectives never discovered where half a tonne of chemicals bought by Botmeh

for making explosive was stored, where they were mixed, or where the cars for the bombs were garaged.

The two were caught by solid detective work in an operation called Northgate. Police were also aided by the fact that Botmeh left a trail of potential clues and the blasts did not completely devastate the cars carrying the bombs.

Identification numbers in the wreckage led police to an auction in Loughborough, where the auctioneer particularly remembered seeing a distinctive BMW used by the buyer. Police narrowed it down to about 1,000 possible vehicles. As they reached the 199th they hit their target.

Checks linked the car to a series of parking tickets in London including one close to Botmeh's own address. He usually gave a false name but he had given his right name when stopped on the M1.

Police mounted a two month surveillance operation, eventually finding a terrorist hide Alami had kept in a relative's flat. Nearly five months later the owner of a storage unit in Acton, west London, called in police to an abandoned unit. Inside were prepared bombs, explosive and two more handguns.

Israel shooting, page 17

Drink and drug played part in Sassoon deaths

By A STAFF REPORTER

A DRIVER involved in a crash which killed him and five other young people, including two grandchildren of Siegfried Sassoon, had cannabis and more than the legal limit of alcohol in his blood, an inquest was told yesterday.

The six who died were returning to Frome in a Ford Fiesta from the "One World" music festival at Nunnery, Somerset. Charles Weale, 21, of Salisbury, was driving. In the car were two grandchildren of the First World War poet Siegfried Sassoon — Tom Sassoon, 18, and Isobel Sassoon, 20, both of Frome; Stephen Stokes, 21, of Frome; Melanie France, 21, of Frome; and Christopher Ashton, 19, of Salisbury. Mr Ashton was in the passenger seat with Mr Stokes on his lap.

A van driver told the Wells inquest that he had desperately tried to avoid a head-on collision with the car, which was travelling on his side of the road. Brian Horler, who suffered broken ribs in the accident, told the Somerset Coroner, Nicholas Rheinberg, that he had been driving on the Nunnery Catch bypass early on September 1 when he saw headlights coming towards him. He said: "I real-

ised they were on my side of the road, maybe 200 feet away. I braked but we just collided."

Paul Norris, a carpet fitter, told how he and another teenager, Oliver Perry, had been badly injured as they walked at the roadside when the Fiesta swerved across the road after the impact. By coincidence, they had been drinking with the crash victims.

The inquest was told that Mr Weale had a count of 111mg of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood. The legal limit is 80mg.

A police accident expert, Sergeant Michael Handy, said he calculated the closing speed at impact at over 100mph — with the van probably at about 40 mph and the car about 60 mph.

Sgt Handy said that having three people in the front could have created problems for a driver and that the number of people in the vehicle could have affected the steering.

Mr Rheinberg said that excess alcohol was the only possible explanation for the actions of the driver. He recorded verdicts of deaths by multiple injuries as a result of a road accident.

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Labour MP's Bill tightens curbs on combat knives

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

DEALERS in combat knives will face up to two years in jail under a government-backed Bill unveiled yesterday.

Police are also to be given stronger stop-and-search powers to restrict the possession of knives in public. The measure will allow police to stop and search pupils in school playgrounds if they suspect that knives are being carried.

The Private Member's Bill, to be proposed by James Wray, Labour MP for Glasgow Provan, will also provide for the restriction of advertising under aggressive descriptions such as "The Vindicator" and "Rambo knife". It is likely to have a speedy passage through Parliament.

The Bill has been drawn up after consultations between the Government and opposition parties amid growing public concern over the issue. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, agreed to co-operate with his shadow, Jack Straw, and Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, after pressure from the Opposition.

Mr Wray, who topped this year's Private Member's Bill ballot, said he was keen to see action to restrict combat knives and so had allowed his slot to be used. The Knives Bill was drawn up after negotiations with the Home Office, the police and other interested

bodies. Mr Straw said: "There is great public concern that knives plainly designed for violence and with lurid titles are on open sale. We now have a Bill which will stop people selling or promoting these appalling knives, and will make a significant contribution to reducing the knife culture."

Mr Howard promised government support for the Bill, which has its Second Reading tomorrow. He said: "Stopping the aggressive marketing of knives will help to counter the threat of a knife culture developing in this country. It will also help to discourage youngsters from carrying knives."

Under the Bill, it will become an offence to market a knife in a way which "indicates or suggests that it is suitable for combat" or is "likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour". It will also be an offence to sell, hire or offer for sale or hire a knife suitable for combat.

The decision on whether a particular knife is suitable for combat will be left to the courts. It will become an offence to publish material in connection with marketing a knife which suggests violence or that the weapon is suitable for combat.

The Bill provides for a number of exemptions including knives intended for use by the Armed Forces and knives

marketed as collectors' pieces.

Under the extended police powers, an officer of the rank of superintendent or above will be able to order the stopping and searching of people and vehicles if he or she believes that they are carrying knives or offensive weapons. The power, in a designated area, will exist for 24 hours.

A person found guilty of marketing a knife in a way that indicates it is suitable for violence or encourages violence faces six months' imprisonment if convicted at a magistrates' court and a maximum two years if found guilty at the Crown Court.

The Police Superintendents' Association was delighted with the Bill. Brian Mackenzie, president of the association, said: "Our determination to find a solution to this offensive activity has paid off. Although it will not be a panacea, it should go some way to changing the culture of violence epitomised by 'Rambo'-type films and magazines."

Mr Straw said that 40,000 people had signed Labour's petition to ban the sale of such weapons. "The Bill improves the power of the police where there is particular and manifest danger of knife-carrying gangs in a locality. We believe that this section of the Bill will help the police without undermining civil liberties."



Setting the stage for announcements: Darcey Bussell and Plácido Domingo

Bussell in a song and dance about love

DARCEY BUSSELL put work first yesterday, but said that she would be getting married after the end of the ballet season early next year.

The Royal Ballet's principal dancer, who is engaged to a City banker, made her announcement as she joined Plácido Domingo to promote today's fundraising gala for the Royal Opera House Development Appeal. Bussell, 27, who shares a flat in Earls Court with her fiancé, Angus Forbes, 31, said: "No date is set yet, but most probably it will be at the end of the season."

Today's gala, featuring Domingo, is to raise funds for five new ballet studios, increased dining capacity for audiences and year-round access to the building. Domingo said: "The tradition of this company is great both for ballet and opera and so much needs all the developments."

The Royal Opera House has been allocated £78.5 million from the National Lottery, and has set about raising matching funds of up to £100 million.

Domingo, 55, had an extra performance to reveal yesterday: the Three Tenors will be completing a hat-trick of World Cup performances in two years' time. With Luciano Pavarotti and José Carreras, he sang at the 1990 event in Rome, and in 1994 in Los Angeles. They will perform again in France in 1998.

Opera, page 35



Beryl Burton in 1967

Top cyclist died of heart failure

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE world champion cyclist Beryl Burton died on a training ride when her heart stopped after years of unnoticed deterioration, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mrs Burton, 59, had competed only a week before she died, unaware that she was suffering from myocardial fibrosis. Her heart finally gave out in May.

She collapsed off her bicycle in a street near her home in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Because she was so fit it was at first assumed that she had been the victim of a hit-and-run driver.

That was discounted after a postman told police that he had seen no vehicles in the road at the time. Tests discovered that Mrs Burton's heart was diseased and had deteriorated over a long period. Colin Moore, the Coroner, recorded a verdict that she had died from natural causes.

Only the week before she died Mrs Burton had raced alongside her daughter, Denise, to win the team prize in a Yorkshire roads time-trial. Seven months earlier she had taken part in leading contests, riding at a national time trial in Bedfordshire.

She won her first World Pursuit Championship in 1959 and road racing world titles in 1960 and 1967. Her records for time trials over 25, 50 and 100 miles still stand, as does her distance record of 277.25 miles in 12 hours, set in 1967. She married her husband, Charlie, when she was 17 and worked on a chubbar farm to earn money to help to fund her training.

Unlike many, she stayed an amateur and remained a member of the cycling club in Morley, near Leeds. A square in the town has since been named in her honour.

Girls sing way into Irish record books

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE first Christmas concert by a girls' choir in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, was held yesterday, ending more than 550 years of male domination.

Boys' and men's choirs have sung in the Protestant cathedral since the foundation of the choir school in 1432. But girls attending the school, Ireland's oldest, were barred from singing in the cathedral until earlier this year.

"It is an historic occasion," said a spokeswoman for the cathedral, where Jonathan Swift was dean in the early 18th century. "Christmas is such an important time for choirs and it is wonderful that the girls are participating for the first time."

The 17 girls in the choir, aged between eight and 14, sang a 45-minute repertoire of choral and organ music for Advent and Christmas, including works by Brahms, Bach and Ockelby. The girls had sung in the cathedral before, but yesterday was their first concert. Last April they sang matins after a decision by the Church of Ireland authorities to allow them to sing in the cathedral.

Barbara Dagg, the director of the choir, said 26 girls would be singing in the choir by next summer. The lunchtime concert was a great success: "It was a little awe-inspiring for many of the girls. Many of them are so tiny and facing a very large audience. But they managed and warmed to the event as it went on."

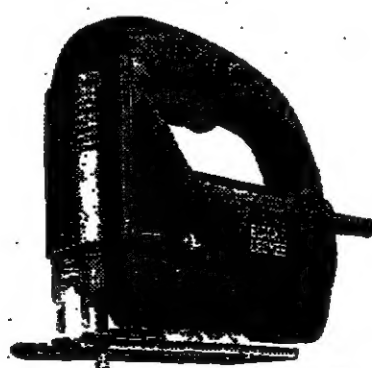
Built in 1191, St Patrick's is the national Church of Ireland cathedral, equivalent to Westminster Abbey. It was originally a Catholic place of worship and is one of three cathedrals in Dublin, two of which are Protestant. It first gained cathedral status in 1213. Jonathan Swift was Dean of St Patrick's from 1713 to 1745.

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£201,000 for half-brother of football crush victim

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN whose half-brother died in the Hillsborough football disaster was awarded £201,000 damages yesterday. John McCarthy has suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder since Ian Glover died in the crush in 1989.

Viewers of the drama-documentary about the deaths last week saw Mr Glover, played by a former star of Brookside, receiving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in a re-enactment on the pitch.

Mr McCarthy, now 35, from Liverpool, gave a spare ticket for the FA Cup semi-final to Mr Glover, who was 20. Mr McCarthy sat in the north stand but Mr Glover was in the Leppings Lane end, where 95 people were crushed to death.

In his High Court judgment, Mr Justice Sachs rejected an argument by South Yorkshire Police that it was not liable to compensate Mr McCarthy for his illness, which was not disputed, because his relationship with Mr Glover was not such as to give rise to such a duty. A House of Lords ruling in 1991 said that, to win damages for post-traumatic stress, a claimant would have to prove that there had been a "close and intimate relationship".

Mr Justice Sachs judge said he was perfectly satisfied that Mr McCarthy and Mr Glover were part of a close-knit family. Mr McCarthy's father died while his mother was pregnant and he had always looked on her new husband—whom she married two years later and by whom she had five children—as his father.

He had heard evidence that, after the disaster, Mr McCarthy had collapsed over Mr Glover's body, crying inconsolably. Mr McCarthy's wife, by whom he had two children and from whom he was separated because of the "catastrophic" change in him after the disaster, had spoken of the closeness between the two men. His mother had said:

"They were as close as any brothers could be."

The judge said the reality was that Mr McCarthy would not return to his job as a machine operator, or other employment. It was reasonably foreseeable that, being a man of normal fortitude, Mr McCarthy might suffer psychiatric illness as a result of the Chief Constable's admitted breach of duty of care to Mr Glover.

The judge added: "I have considered the matter most anxiously, as I am well aware that the House of Lords indicated the limitations on this type of claim. My decision creates no precedent."

"I decide it on the facts of the instant case and I am satisfied that, on the balance of probabilities... this plaintiff passes the tests required of him entitling him to be compensated for his hurt and consequential injury to his health."

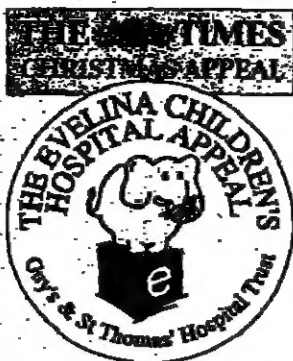
The brothers' mother, Teresa Glover, said after the case: "I am happy and I'm sad. It is very emotional for us even after all these years."

Trevor Hicks, chairman of the Hillsborough families' support group, welcomed the award. "I am very pleased for John and his family and I am sure all the other families will share that sentiment. It is a bit of justice for one of the families."

Martin Davies, Assistant Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, said: "We are not in a position to comment until we've seen the judgment. Then we will have to decide whether to consider an appeal."

More than £10 million has been paid out of the Hillsborough disaster fund to bereaved families, and almost 650 fans have received cash payments. Last month four police officers won compensation claims in the Court of Appeal for psychological damage they suffered while rescuing victims. Fourteen officers have already won £1.2 million damages in the courts.

Worrying wait for a kidney transplant



Children need cash for dialysis machines

By JOHN YOUNG

ELLIOTT SEXTON'S arrival in this world was nothing if not dramatic. Within hours of his birth, on May 26 last year, he was taken to the intensive care unit of the Evelina Children's Hospital in south-east London, suffering from a collapsed lung and severe kidney damage.

For his parents, Lisa, 29, and Vincent, 31, of Guildford, Surrey, it was a terrifying ordeal, but not an unexpected one. Eighteen weeks into Mrs Sexton's pregnancy, Elliott, her first child, was diagnosed as suffering from urethral valve syndrome, which meant that his bowels did not open and created the possibility of kidney failure.

"I refused an abortion and decided to go on with the pregnancy," Mrs Sexton said. "At 24 weeks everything seemed to be going OK, but then ten weeks later came the shock. Elliott's kidneys were badly damaged and the prognosis was very bad. We were told to expect the worst."

After Elliott's birth, by Caesarean section, surgeons at the Evelina, the paediatric unit of the Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital Trust, performed a vesicostomy, cutting an opening in his stomach to release urine.

After two months his parents were told that he would need a transplant. One of his kidneys will be taken out shortly after Christmas. From then on dialysis will, it is hoped, enable him to survive on one kidney until a suitable transplant can be found.



Elliott Sexton will have a kidney removed after Christmas and will need dialysis until a donor organ is found

found. Mrs Sexton said the experience had been a huge strain. "But it has made us stronger. The people in the ward here have been absolutely brilliant. They've done everything they possibly could."

The biggest problem for kidney patients is the shortage of donors. If the supply of suitable organs could be increased, the need for dialysis could be reduced. "Children get weaker the longer they remain on dialysis," Margaret Hicklin, Evelina's clinical nurse manager, said. "Some die before a transplant is available, and that's such a sad waste of a life."

One of the big advances of the past few years has been the portable peritoneal dialysis machine, which patients can use at home and which eliminates the need for thrice-weekly visits to hospital. Joanna Craig, 14, from Thames-

mead, southeast London, has such a machine, to which she attaches herself each night.

"It's not at all painful and it's easy to use," she said. "I sleep right through it and most of the time I feel pretty well OK and can go to school. I only have to come here once a week or once a fortnight for a check-up."

Not all patients are as fortunate. The National Health Service does not pay for portable dialysis machines, which cost about £8,000, and the Evelina cannot afford as many as it would like. Much of the equipment around the renal ward, including oxygen saturation monitors, nasal feeding pumps and pumps for supplying intravenous fluids, is provided by charities.

"Without these things it would be virtually impossible to operate a unit like this," Marcelle de Souza, the sister in charge of dialysis, said.

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BBC faces court over death fall

The BBC was charged yesterday over the death of a freelance electrician working on the hospital drama *Casualty*. David Coles, 35, of Bristol, was thrown 130ft to the ground when a lighting gantry fell over during filming near Aberystwyth, South Wales. He died in hospital from multiple injuries. The BBC and an equipment company are accused of failing to ensure his safety. Abergavenny magistrates adjourned the case.

Family suicide

The husband and son of a woman who died after a long illness were found dead in their car only hours later. Police believe William Knight, 56, and Mark Knight, 27, who lived near Ringwood, Hampshire, committed suicide together in the New Forest.

Police must wait

The Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Neill, reserved judgment until after Christmas on an attempt by the Metropolitan Police to reduce the size of awards to victims of police wrongdoing.

Murder remands

Amanda McDonald, 24, Susan Beveridge, 34, and Lesley Caren Jones, 23, accused of the murder of a 74-year-old pensioner, were remanded in custody for a week by Cardiff magistrates. John Walker was found dead in his flat in the city last month.

Baby stuck

A newborn baby had to be cut free by firefighters after his head became wedged between his cot and a foldaway table on which his mother was changing him in Birmingham Women's Hospital. The boy was unhurt, but his mother was described as very distressed.

Porky pie

Staff are trying to trace a customer who was inadvertently sold a fake pork pie, varnished and filled with wood chips, from a display at the Oven Door bakery in King's Lynn. "We want to give him a replacement before he wrecks his teeth," the manageress said.

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Forget the white heat of technology: No 10 web site slumbers in a cosy fireside glow

BY MIKE MURPHY
INTERNET EDITOR

FOR anorak, read cardigan. John Major yesterday opened the best-known front door in Britain to Internet surfers by launching the 10 Downing Street web site — but most will find it ... well, conservative.

"Welcome to 10 Downing Street. I hope you will enjoy your Internet tour of this old, black-fronted house ..." reads Mr Major's reassuring introduction. Those with computers wired for sound may find that the Prime Minister's distinctive delivery adds lustre. Or not.

As Mr Major scrolled through the new and long-awaited web site with children from The Dowai Martyrs School in Uxbridge at the launch in Downing Street yesterday, he was immediately upstaged by No 10's second most famous resident. Confronted on the last page by a picture of Humphrey the cat, Mr Major ventured a joke: "That cat's getting too big for his paws."

The tour of No 10, designed by Central Office of Information Publications, turns out to be reasonably entertaining, in a cardigan and slippers sort of way. The

An American-designed filter installed by an Internet access provider blocks entry to pornographic, racist, violent and other undesirable material. Zetnet Services of Lerwick, the Shetland Islands, says the Little Hat software means parents can let children browse web sites unsupervised. The filter is also designed as an option for schools and youth groups.

surfer is led through No 10's State Rooms, glimpsed by few other than VIPs or Cabinet members, with illustrations to download (firesides feature prominently) and an informative text. One learns, for instance, that the last private resident of Downing Street was a Mr Chicken.

That, however, is as interesting as it gets. At odds with the rapidly evolving world of all-singing, all-dancing web sites, the rest of the information offered is in text form. One does not so much surf as wade through files containing such information as the Queen's Speech and anodyne details of Cabinet ministers' careers. And what happened to the concept of instant access to up-to-date

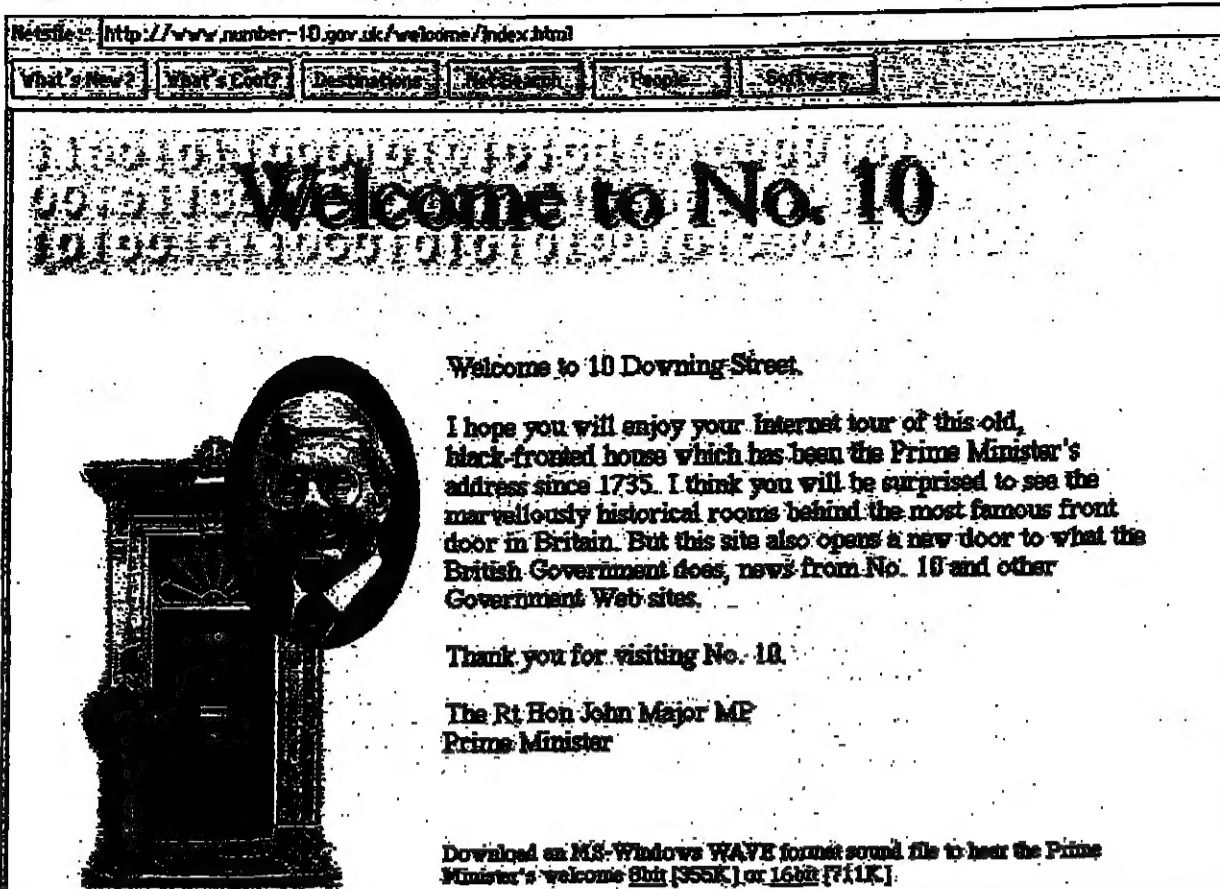
information? All former Prime Ministers are listed, but potted biographies are available only for the last half dozen. Press releases peter out on November 27.

Anyone looking for insightful coverage of the rough and tumble of political life will be disappointed. Margaret Thatcher's removal from office is summed up thus: "After three years of her third term as Prime Minister, she was succeeded as party leader by John Major." Personal details about Mr Major are limited to the names of his wife and children and the revelation that "his recreations include opera, cricket and football."

No 10 bravely resists the worldwide trend towards interactivity in web sites. True, Humphrey pops up to invite one to sign the visitors' book, but it seems that Mr Major is not ready to embrace direct links with the public: there is no facility on the site to e-mail him or his office.

By contrast, the official White House site, updated throughout the day, actively encourages e-mail to the President, the Vice President and the First Lady.

□ Web sites: (Downing Street) <http://www.number-10.gov.uk>
(White House) <http://www.whitehouse.gov>



Net loss: the No 10 site deals more with history than with the serious business of modern government

Vatican pulls the plug on Internet service after high-level opposition

**FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME**

THE Vatican has suspended its Internet service after just a year online because of opposition from "forces within the hierarchy", according to an Italian newspaper. *La Stampa* said the

decision would be a disappointment for many children who had planned to send Christmas messages to "Baby Jesus, c/o the Vatican".

A Vatican spokesman said that the service, started last Christmas, had been temporarily suspended. He said that it had been

considered experimental and would resume once it had been decided what material users should be able to access. A review of the number and nature of connections or "hits" was in progress. *La Stampa* said, however, that elements of the Vatican hierarchy had been "questioning

Subscribers paid \$400 (£242) a year to access information about the Pope's activities and a selection of papal speeches and homilies. The papal emblem — the keys of St Peter — was displayed followed by an image of John

Paul II offering a benediction. Users could then choose information in Spanish, English or French.

message in distress, and thousands used the new service to send get-well messages. One e-mail message from an American girl called Sarah advised him to have chicken soup and lots of liquids.

issued during the year. But suggestions that the service might be extended to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which issues Vatican rulings on issues such as celibacy, birth control and women priests, and the Vatican Library and museums, have so far come to nothing.

Priest's book sanctuary holds the key to Saturn

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A LUTHERAN pastor's mission to save thousands of books from destruction in the former East Germany has provided an invaluable contribution to space exploration. One of the books contained the recipe for a ceramic that will be used by the Cassini probe on a seven-year voyage to Saturn.

When Germany was unified in 1990, libraries threw out millions of old books, partly because they assumed they would soon get much better ones from the West, and partly to mark a break with the past. Even science and engineering texts carried some reference to building socialism.

But Martin Weskott, a Lutheran priest from Kattenburg, could not bear to see them destroyed. He saved 700,000, taking some from heaps by the side of the road and storing them in the barns of an old monastery. He earned the nickname "the

book pastor" for his efforts. They proved invaluable, *New Scientist* reports, when Dr Hans Laue of the Max Planck Institute for Aeronomy in Katlenburg-Lindau set out to design a spectrometer for Cassini to measure the amounts of hydrogen and its heavy isotope deuterium in the atmosphere of Saturn.

The ratio of the two isotopes will give clues about the development of the planet, Dr. Lauche believes, because as a planet grows its gravitational pull attracts more of the lighter isotope. The spectro-scope is designed to measure the absorption of light at the wavelengths characteristic of the two isotopes.

To do this, Dr. Lauche needed an amplifier made of ceramic bonded to glass. But modern ceramics used in space probes are all designed to expand and contract as little as possible and, if bonded to glass, will break apart as the

rates of expansion are so different.

Dr Lauche searched for information about older materials such as magnesium silicate, which expands and contracts like glass, but could find nothing. Finally he turned to Herr Weskott and the books he had stored in the barn.

There he found the details he needed. In East Germany, the older materials had not been replaced by more modern ceramics. "You need temperatures of 2,000C to make the modern ceramics, but you can make the old ones with only 1,400C," he said. Brown coal, the staple fuel of East Germany, burns at this temperature.

The instrument is now ready to fly. Cassini, a joint operation by the European Space Agency, the US space agency Nasa, and the Italian Space Agency, is due for launch next October.

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Gulf veteran found out about pesticides before ministers

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

OFFICIALS at the Ministry of Defence knew the full extent of the use of organophosphate pesticides in the Gulf at least two months before ministers were told, the Commons Defence Committee learnt yesterday.

They even informed a Gulf War veteran in writing that "the full picture" had not been given by the ministry, in a letter dated four weeks before Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, made an emergency statement to the Commons correcting previous parliamentary answers that organophosphate pesticides had been used on a limited scale only.

Bernard Doyle, a craftsman with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers attached to 7th Armoured Brigade during the Gulf War, received a letter on August 27 from Lieutenant-Colonel John Graham of the Defence Medical Services Directorate, outlining the wide use of the potentially dangerous pesticides. The information was contained in an MoD briefing note No 3, dated July 19, 1996. The document was waved at MoD officials by Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat member of the Defence Committee, when they were questioned yesterday.

Mr Campbell said: "It is a disgrace that a letter is sent to a member of the public in



Doyle received letter outlining use of spray

which he is given relevant and significant information on a matter of the utmost controversy and the utmost interest to Parliament and that that information is not given to ministers until a month later."

Mr Doyle, 33, from North Wales, left the Army in 1993 and is now "unemployable", suffering from chest problems and a muscle-wasting neurological disease. Yesterday his wife, Sylvia, said her husband had described his symptoms to the Organophosphate Network and was told that he had "OP poisoning". She said: "He is now on a 60 per cent war pension and extremely ill. It seems extraordinary that by badgering the ministry, he

eventually found out what he needed to know, yet ministers were apparently kept in the dark."

The committee was also told that three weeks before Mr Doyle received the letter, Group Captain Bill Coker, the consultant physician who headed the Gulf medical assessment team until last month, told the War Pensions Agency that no organophosphates were sprayed. Group Captain Coker told the MPs that he knew pesticides had been used because a number of the servicemen he had seen had mentioned it, but he was not aware they were organophosphates.

Mr Doyle said yesterday: "I had been pestering the MoD for a long time and then suddenly the evidence I had been after landed on my doorstep. I don't think the MoD realised the significance of what it had sent me."

The MPs also learnt that military reports giving details about the use of locally supplied pesticides, containing high dosages of diazinon, a dangerous substance, were available in March 1991. Fifty-four Gulf War veterans are now being re-examined for possible pesticide poisoning.

A full investigation headed by Richard Mottram, the ministry's permanent secretary, is expected to be completed by February.



Dr Jonathon Pines with a dish containing the fluorescent protein. "Hopefully, this will enable us to design more specific drugs," he said

Jellyfish provide flash of inspiration in cancer hunt

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A FLASHING light used by jellyfish to ward off danger is helping in the fight against cancer.

The fluorescent protein produced by the jellyfish *Aequorea victoria*, which lives in the Pacific, is being used to examine how individual proteins move when a human cell divides. Cambridge scientists have

taken the gene containing the instructions for making the protein and incorporated it into human cells in their laboratory, to provide a fluorescent tag. When the proteins are illuminated by blue light under a microscope, they fluoresce and stand out clearly. Dr Jonathon Pines, who is leading the research at the Wellcome/Cancer Research Campaign Institute, said: "Cancer cells

often divide when they shouldn't. Until now, experts have only been able to guess which part of the machinery has run out of control.

"This area of research is helping us better understand how to tackle cancer at its beginnings. We're using this gene as a fluorescent tag for any protein that we're interested in."

One of the problems with cancer drugs was accurate targeting, he said.

"Using this technique it will be possible to see what the drug is doing in the cell. Hopefully, this will enable us to design more specific drugs."

Professor Gordon McVie, director general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "It's fascinating to think that jellyfish, which appeared more than 700 million years ago, are offering a modern-day solution to one of science's greatest mysteries."

Brixton banishes robbers

By TIM JONES

ONE of the most crime-ridden areas of London has recorded its third robbery-free day in five years after an undercover operation involving hundreds of police officers.

The borough of Brixton recorded no robberies on two days in November. The month long operation, Eagle Eye, also covered Streatham, Vauxhall, Peckham, Wandsworth and Southwark, and resulted in 78 arrests.

Uniformed officers and mounted police provided a high-profile presence in the areas to push known robbers to the edges of their normal operating areas. They were followed by plain clothes officers and arrested before carrying out crimes in other parts of the capital.

Victims of muggers and pickpockets were taken around streets in police cars to identify their attackers.

Lottery grants go to war

By JOHN YOUNG

GRANTS of £13 million to the Imperial War Museum in London and £3 million to the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth are announced today by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The grant to the Imperial War Museum will support the third stage of its redevelopment, after the earlier redevelopment of permanent exhibitions on the First and Second World Wars. It will feature a gallery dealing with the Holocaust and an exhibition on the impact of war on 20th century society.

The grant of £2,946,000 to the Royal Naval Museum will go towards its redevelopment and expansion. The programme includes a gallery on the history of HMS Victory and the life of Nelson, and a recreation of the sights and sounds of the Battle of Trafalgar.

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'It is a parody of my views to imply that I think we should join EMU this weekend'

Clarke uses sceptical tone in bid to calm Euro-rebels

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE did his best to placate the Tory Euro-sceptics yesterday by spelling out both the disadvantages and the advantages of monetary union and insisting that he was genuinely undecided about the merits of joining.

Adopting an unusually sceptical tone, the Chancellor emphasised the importance of achieving genuine economic convergence before even thinking about joining a single currency. Countries could not just meet the criteria in one particular year. "They must demonstrate a credible commitment to durable and sustainable convergence," he said. That was the basis on which Britain would take its decisions.

Opening a two-day debate on Europe before the Dublin summit this weekend, he said: "I am one of those who is genuinely waiting to decide. My judgment will depend on the actual circumstances that we face at the time and where the national interest lies."

"It is a parody of my views for critics to imply that I think the UK should join EMU this weekend. We need to have the full picture and debate all the issues before we take such a key decision on the economic future of our country."

Britain had everything to

gain and nothing to lose from "staying in the game", and it was vital to keep the UK "punching its weight in negotiations". Whatever the Government decided, EMU would affect this country and Britain's interests needed to be protected.

But he was barracked by MPs from his own side when he said there was no Tory politician who was a federalist, and that none would accept a federalist superstate.

Amid further jeers he accused the Euro-sceptics of inflaming public opinion. "Treating the debate about EMU as if it were a debate about the creation of a superstate arouses public fears and deprives the public of sensible information about the issues," he said.

"In my view there are fewer and fewer people on the Continent who see EMU as a tool for further political integration."

Tony Marlow (C, Northampton N) said the vast majority of the Tory party was against a single currency "precisely because it would be the end of the nation state". Mr Clarke said: "If I shared that belief I would be against EMU, but I do not share that belief."

Sir Teddy Taylor (C, Southend E) said that the European Central Bank would take the basic economic decisions. "Is that not a collapse of national sovereignty and democracy?"

Mr Clarke said that, although the independent central bank would be responsible for monetary policy decisions, questions of taxation, public spending and Budget setting would "remain the responsibility of the nation state".

John Redwood, leader of the backbench Right, said that part of the "genius of the current British economic policy and recovery is the fact that

we have flexible exchange rates and interest rates suited to our needs."

The former Chancellor Norman Lamont queried Mr Clarke's claim that EMU would not lead to political union, saying "most of our partners in Europe, certainly the Germans, seem to believe this".

But Mr Clarke pointed to statements by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, saying that he was not in favour of a federal superstate.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said that at least 50 Tory MPs and prospective parliamentary candidates planned to stand on a separate manifesto opposing a single currency. "There is a pattern of events that is consistently followed where the Eurosceptics in the Conservative Party make a demand, where they expect the Prime Minister to vacillate, where the Chancellor digs in, where the Prime Minister retreats for a little, where factional war then breaks out, and where the war of factions is effective

what decides the final outcome." The Tories had "long ceased to be able to govern on this vital issue of Europe" and could not unite the country. "They cannot even unite their own party."

Mr Lamont said: "We are not winning the argument in Europe. There is a fundamental irreconcilable difference between what we want from Europe and what the Europeans want from Europe. And, one day, that clash will have to be faced and choices made."

The Government risked being left powerless to lead the debate in Europe at the general election. "The trouble with a wait-and-see policy is that it assumes that there is no fundamental issue of principle involved in monetary union. But there is a profound principle involved — and that principle is: can a country continue to be an independent, self-governing country within a monetary union?"

He added: "The risks of being in the single currency are far greater than the risks of being out."



Scott pins blame on party's right wing

By JAMES LANDALE

SIR NICHOLAS SCOTT blamed Tory rightwingers yesterday for his deselection as the party's next candidate for Kensington and Chelsea. The former minister, speaking publicly about his rejection for the first time, denied that concern about his drink-driving conviction and another alcohol-related incident had tipped the balance of support against him.

Sir Nicholas told Granada Talk TV that especially those party members from the Kensington side of the newly merged constituency were determined to get rid of him. "They wanted somebody who was anti-European and somebody on the Right of the party. This is nothing at all to do with the drinking incidents."

He said he would like to see Chris Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, become the next Prime Minister. It was widely thought that he kept his seat because he would eventually have stood aside for Mr Patten.

The former minister Alan Clark told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that he would like to stand for Kensington and Chelsea.



Lamont says Britain is losing the argument

Agency berated on computer security

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

A GOVERNMENT agency was criticised by MPs yesterday for failing to ensure the security of confidential information on benefit claims.

The Public Accounts Committee is concerned that a computer firm handling contracts for government departments might pool such information and sell it on. It says that firms dealing with the payment of benefits should be rigorously checked to ensure that records remain confidential.

In a report published yesterday, the MPs berated the Information Technology Services Agency. They accepted that the agency would not allow the use of benefit records for profit, but were concerned that it did not know how companies producing Girocheque and order books handled the security of information.

They told the agency, which comes under the Department of Social Security: "There are understandable public concerns about the potential misuse of this data." The MPs urged them to immediately seek information from the computer firms handling the payment of benefits.

The agency told the committee that it ensured that contract staff signed the Official Secrets Act and that there were "reasonable walls" between the contracts run by Electronic Data Systems (EDS), a firm with contracts for the Benefits Agency, the Inland Revenue and the Child Support Agency.

The committee asked whether a contractor could market information after removing personal details. The agency said that it would disapprove of any such use of claimants' records for personal gain, but it could not say what safeguards companies used to prevent this.

MPs were studying the £577 million contracts set up by the Information Technology Services Agency with EDS, SEMA Group plc and International Computers Ltd. The agency projected savings of £399 million by having off the services, but MPs were concerned that the figure might now be in doubt as contractors' prices were £74 million, about 13 per cent higher than estimated.

MPs told the agency to monitor closely the performance of the firms.

Tory majority at risk in by-election today

LABOUR looks certain to wipe out the Government's Commons majority of one today when voters go to the polls in the Barnsley East by-election (James Landale writes).

The poll for the Labour stronghold in South Yorkshire was caused by the death of Terry Patchett, who held a 24,777 majority at the last general election. Jeff Ennis,

the 44-year-old Labour candidate, is expected to win the contest and enter Parliament as soon as possible.

Although the decision by the Tory MP Sir John Gorton to withdraw his support for the Government last week in effect cut the Tory majority of one, he did not resign the whip and he is still counted as part of the Government's vote.

But if Labour wins today, when Mr Ennis enters Parliament the Government will have the same number of MPs as those of all the opposition parties.

The candidates are Jane Ellison (C); Jeff Ennis (Lab); Dave Willis (Lib Dem); Ken Capstick (Socialist Labour Party); Julie Hyland (Socialist Equality Party); Count Nikolai Tolstoy (UKIP). □ 1992 general election result: Terry Patchett (Lab) 30,346; John Procter (C) 5,569; Ms S Anginotti (Lib Dem) 3,399. Turnout: 72.7 per cent.

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Europe gets first look at new banknote logo

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS



EUROPE will have its first glimpse tomorrow of the banknotes destined to replace the francs, marks and other currencies that will unite in the future euro. Jumping the gun, however, Brussels has unveiled its wishes for the future logo.

If the European Commission has its way, the crescent-shaped "e", with its twin bars, will become as familiar to shoppers and global bankers as the \$ sign. "We thought that there was a need for a standard symbol and somebody had to come up with it," said an official on the team of Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the monetary Commissioner.

While the politicians squabble over the machinery, the Commission is using the "e" device in an advertising campaign to acquaint citizens with the future euro well ahead of E-day. The euro will become legal tender for transactions when exchange rates are locked on January 1, 1999, but the notes and coins will not start circulating until 2002.

"This is going to be on all your T-shirts," said the official, referring to the £16 million that has been spent on the

campaign this year. The drive, which will involve nifty play on such words as "e-excellence" and "e-excitement", will be bypassing Britain in deference to the Government's "rather strong message" this year about its distaste for Brussels' advertising, officials said.

Britain, however, has been involved in the secret project that comes to fruition at the Dublin European summit tomorrow when the European Monetary Institute, embryo of the future Frankfurt central bank, unveils the designs for the seven euro notes.

As home to the Eurovision song contest, the Irish Republic seems an appropriate venue for announcing the winners in a competition for a product

that is harmonised and bland enough to sound no discord from Helsinki to Madrid.

Given the design ground rule of avoiding offence, critics are ready with their null points. At the insistence of Germany, which calls the shape in the E-project, four wings from each member state had the daunting task of expressing Europe's civilisation without any identifiable reference to national events, people or places.

There was to be no question, for instance, of offending France or Spain with British sailing ships, or upsetting France's old foes or foreign sensibilities with guillottes or the half-naked maidens at the barricades beloved of French poets. This month the jury of central bankers, including Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, made its choice from themes featuring seven historical periods with seven different landscapes, seven architectural eras and seven groups of people.

Even these, however, must be homogenised into a euro-norm, so the Eiffel and Pisa towers are out, as are obviously German or Scottish castles.

Hard-pressed entrants, including Britain's De La Rue and the Bank of England, were said by EU officials to have offered composites, such as a hybrid woman with a Nordo-Mediterranean look that could have come only from multinational ancestry.

Even landscapes could run into trouble if they go in for the snowflakes beloved of Nordic notes or depict such things as blatant Mediterranean islands. Given the lack of Continent-wide symbols, irrelevant suggestions included such European institutions as a social security cheque.

In a German concession to pressure from Britain and France, the bankers left open the option of deciding whether to allocate one-fifth of the note to a box with a national motif for the state in which it circulates.

Although the design is still unrevealed, the colour of Europe's money has been announced. There will be grey for £5, red for £10, blue for £20, orange for £50, green for £100, yellow and brown for £200 and purple for £500.

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Jacques Santer, who yesterday made another veiled attack on British hostility to Europe

Nato hails Russian accord on security

BY CHARLES BRENNER

RUSSIA yesterday accepted an offer from the Atlantic alliance to start talks on a new security partnership in Europe, but it rejected the West's desire to link this with Nato's enlargement to the former communist states of Central and Eastern Europe.

In a shift that was warmly welcomed by Nato ministers, Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, said Moscow was ready to start the dialogue long proposed by Washington and its allies on a new architecture for European security. Ministers formalised their offer on Tuesday at a meeting which made clear to Moscow that it would have to accept Nato plans to start membership talks with some of the Kremlin's former Central European allies next July.

Mr Primakov said Moscow was happy to start talks on a new document, although he stopped short of using Nato's terms of charter or treaty. "We were made an offer to hold consultations with Nato in order to settle any issues that might be of concern to us. I think this will open the door to fruitful talks," he said.

He repeated Moscow's firm rejection of the principle of Nato enlargement, however. This would "inevitably lead to a new division of Europe. That is unacceptable."

The future agreement on the East-West relationship "must be a document which contains more than general principles. It must have concrete elements," he said. Until now, the Russians have been wary of any commitment to negotiations because it could imply acceptance of Nato's eastward move. The Kremlin wants a binding agreement on equal terms with Nato, while the alliance envisages a "16 plus one" partnership that would associate the Russians without giving them equal status.

Nato ministers seized on Mr Primakov's response as a first step towards a structure for the post-Cold War Europe. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said he was "surprised and delighted by Russia's constructive attitude". Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, said Mr Primakov's agreement was "very good news".

Euro-sceptics told EU 'is best way to safeguard sovereignty'

BY CHARLES BRENNER AND LEILA LINTON IN STRASBOURG

JACQUES SANTER, President of the European Commission, yesterday took aim at British fears over sovereignty, saying deeper European integration was the best way to safeguard national interests, adding there was no alternative.

Mr Santer delivered the latest in a spate of veiled attacks on London as EU leaders prepared for tomorrow's Dublin summit, which is threatened by a feud over German insistence on tough rules for monetary union.

Clearly aiming at British Euro-sceptics, Mr Santer said the notion of Europe as a simple marketplace was an idea of the past. "Safeguarding national sovereignty

means equipping ourselves with the means to make national interests... prevail in the face of the unstoppable globalisation of the economy and politics," he said. The means to this was a deep reform of the Maastricht treaty, a project now under way at the inter-governmental conference (IGC), and to be reviewed by leaders in Dublin.

There is no alternative to an ambitious reform of the treaty. The European Union is not the enemy of national sovereignty. On the contrary, those who want to succeed in the world of today and tomorrow can only do so through a Union that is strong and influential."

Mr Santer, speaking to the

European Parliament, voiced the Commission's disappointment over the failure of negotiations so far to grips with reforming the EU's institutions. With another nod at Britain, he noted that countries most resisting change were those most in favour of enlarging the EU to members from the former Eastern bloc. The aim of the IGC is to revamp the Union as a prelude to enlargement.

Ireland's rough draft for a new treaty was the main item on the Dublin summit agenda, but it is likely to be overshadowed by the quarrel over monetary union if finance ministers fail at a meeting today to find a compromise with Germany. In a

dispute with far-reaching political implications, Germany is holding out against almost all other EU states for machinery that would impose automatic heavy sanctions against members of a single currency that run irresponsible budgets.

France, the other main pillar of the EU, opposes what its leaders see as a scheme that dilutes the sovereignty of governments over their economic policy. Mr Santer and French and German officials all voiced optimism yesterday that a compromise would be reached, but senior EU diplomats feared that Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, could be preparing to take a hard stand on the so-called stability pact.

Executive faces trial in feud of car giants

FROM ROGER ROYCE IN BONN

A FEUD between two top car makers, Volkswagen and General Motors, came to a head yesterday with an announcement that a senior executive would face criminal charges.

The state prosecutor in Darmstadt will tomorrow file charges against Jose Ignacio Lopez, who resigned last month from the board of Volkswagen. Industry sources say the Basque manager will be accused of embezzlement and industrial espionage. A more serious charge of fraud is likely to be dropped.

The feud began about 40 months ago when Señor Lopez, working at Opel — the German arm of General Motors, was head-hunted by Volkswagen. His brief was to cut purchasing and production costs. This he managed successfully, saving VW about £8 billion over three years. Opel claimed, however, that he and his team members, who defected with him, had carried away crates of secret information that was copied on to VW computers.

A judge in Detroit, the home of General Motors, has ruled that Señor Lopez could be pursued under anti-racketeering laws. General Motors had demanded Señor Lopez's removal, a public apology and a huge cash payment. However, Ferdinand Piech, the chairman of Volkswagen, yesterday told Stern magazine: "I am not aware what there is to apologise about because we have not committed an injustice against anybody."

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Setback for ivory trade as poachers kill 280 elephants

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE mass slaughter of more than 200 elephants by poachers in the Congo is certain to fuel the debate over the lifting of the ban on trade in ivory.

David Barritt, African director for the International Fund for Animal Welfare, discovered the rotting corpses of 280 elephants killed in a recent poaching operation near Congo's border with Gabon. He believes it is the largest single mass killing of African elephants.

An entire herd of elephants, including calves and pregnant females, was shot in a forest clearing by local inhabitants wielding AK47 rifles. They had been hired by poachers from Brazzaville, the capital of Congo, and were paid as little as \$10 (£6) for their work; and, in one case for a bottle of rum.

Mr Barritt, who returned last week from the West African country, said he came across Taiwanese and Chinese businessmen in Brazzaville. He believes the ivory is being shipped to the Far East.

The poachers told the local inhabitants, whom they hired, that it was all right to kill the elephants because next year the trade in ivory is going to be resumed legally. Mr Barritt disclosed. "This underlines our argument that if you have even limited trade in ivory it will be a catastrophe, because where you have a legal trade

inevitably an illegal trade will follow."

Debate over a lifting of the ivory ban recently intensified after Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia came out in favour of a resumption of the trade. The Government of Zimbabwe has said it will use a conference scheduled to be held in Harare next year by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) to have the ban

6 If you have even limited trade in ivory, inevitably an illegal trade will follow

overturned. The Government has been embarrassed, however, by a recent report which disclosed that ivory exports from the country to the Far East have been allowed to proceed unchecked.

Mr Barritt's organisation and other conservation agencies are opposed to a lifting of the ban. He argues that if the ivory trade is legalised it will be impossible to distinguish between legally obtained ivory

and elephant tusks smuggled into the market by poachers.

Pro-trade conservationists argue, however, that poachers will kill regardless of a ban and they believe it is important to put a value on elephants so that the local population will regard them as assets and continue to conserve the species. Julian Sturgeon, the director of the Africa Resources Centre in Johannesburg, a conservation lobby group, said it was disingenuous to suggest that the mass killings in the Congo can be directly linked to the debate over the ivory trade.

"What is happening in the Congo is a tragedy but there are many social and political factors involved," Mr Sturgeon said. "It would be an insult to the intelligence to suggest this is just to do with the ivory trade. The way to save elephants is to accord them a value."

□ **Panda plan:** China has set out on a tough mission to breed more pandas in captivity, as their numbers dwindle in the wild through hunting and the destruction of their habitat. The China News Service said in Peking that a mating programme and artificial insemination would boost the number of panda pregnancies from eight this year to between 40 and 60 over the next four years. (Reuters)

Critics rave over Madonna's magnetic Eva

STEVE GRAYSON/REUTERS



Madonna after a press screening of *Evita* in Los Angeles and, right, as Eva Perón in a scene from the film, being released at Christmas

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

MADONNA'S breathlessly awaited turn as an Argentinean dictator's wife is being greeted in America with rave reviews that seem likely to bestow on her at last the acting stardom she craves.

Two weeks before *Evita's* Christmas Day opening, *Time* magazine has welcomed the film as "easily the best adaptation of a Broadway-style musical in decades", and its star as "a magnet for all eyes".

Making good on a boast that no one but her could carry the role of Eva Perón, Madonna was hailed even more enthusiastically by the trade paper, *Daily Variety*. She "gives her all to the role and pulls it off superbly", the critic Todd McCarthy wrote. "Dark-eyed, intent and serious, she conquers the character as *Evita* conquered every challenge she set for herself in her own life."

Only *The Hollywood Reporter* struck a critical note, but such dissent is less likely to affect the film's fortunes at the box office than America's uncertain appetite for movies

with virtually no dialogue. Alan Parker, the British director, has insisted on an operatic "sing-through" style even between set-piece numbers.

The new wave of adulation has done nothing to dampen Madonna's ego. "Evita is the first movie big enough to contain me," she said yesterday in her first interview since giving birth to a daughter. "I know I have a very big presence. If I overpower the movie, the movie fails."

Hence, perhaps, her critical drubbings in films such as *Shanghai Surprise* and *Who's That Girl?* "I related to *Evita's* commitment, discipline and ambition, and that bravery required for a girl of 15 to come from the *pueritos* and go to Buenos Aires to find her way in entertainment and later in politics," Madonna continued in the *USA Today* interview.

She stopped short of announcing political ambitions, but appears to welcome the inevitable parallels being drawn between Señora Perón's career and her own.



Argentinian gift fails to impress

FROM MICHAEL BUNYON IN PORT STANLEY

GUIDO DI TELLA, Argentina's Foreign Minister, has again sent virtually every Falkland Islands family a personal Christmas gift, provoking widespread derision in the islands where there is still deep hostility and suspicion about Argentina's intentions.

With a letter addressed to "My dear neighbour", Señor di Tella enclosed a copy of *Anales de Saint-Exupéry's* book: *The Little Prince*. He calls it "a delightful little book" and notes that the author says it was "written for grown-ups full of imagination and dreams, who were children not so long ago". He adds his personal best wishes for Christmas and the new year to each islander.

Six hundred of the 2,400 Falklanders received copies, postmarked London. They need little imagination to work out the symbolism of the story by the French writer, Saint-Exupéry used to be a pilot on

the mail run to South America from France before the Second World War. *The Little Prince*, his most famous work, describes a far away planet which the prince always wanted to visit. When he got there, however, he found that its problems and difficulties were very much like those of the world he had left behind.

The Falkland Islanders no longer feel they live on a distant planet, and have no wish for intrepid adventures arriving from Argentina — another world as far as they are concerned.

Several people, however, have been softened by the charm offensive from Buenos Aires and say it would be foolish to reject Señor di Tella's overtures out of hand because the anglophile Foreign Minister is recognised as one of the most eager to show a new face to the Falklands.

Letters, page 21

Customs caught with drugs haul

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

A CONGRESSIONAL commission investigating Argentina's corruption-ridden customs department yesterday found at least 1,500kg (3,300lb) of cocaine and heroin stashed in rented storage lockers in the offices of the Banco Nacional.

Investigators seized open four lockers loaded by Customs for \$600 (£366) a month. Argentina's central bank and discovered suitcase and sealed cardboard boxes filled with drugs that should have been destroyed years ago.

Mario de las Neves, a congressman of the governing Justicialist (formerly Peronist) Party, who is heading the inquiry, said the drugs, worth at least \$150 million, were likely to have been part of a shipment confiscated from Colombian traffickers three years ago.

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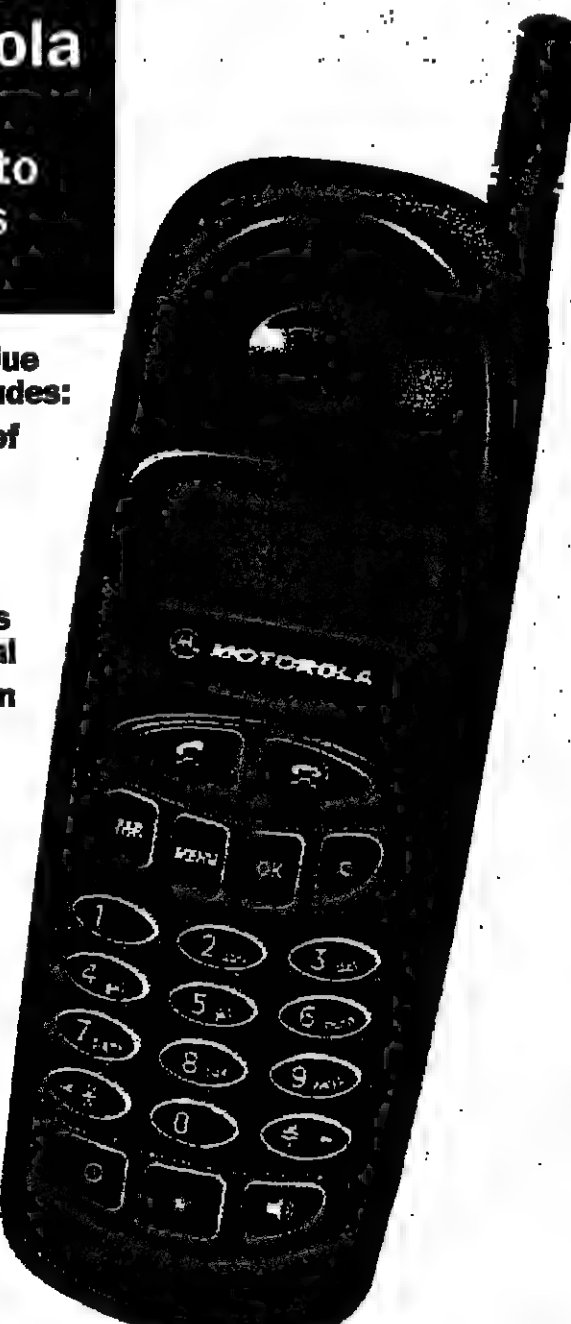
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Indian court orders end to child labour in dangerous jobs

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

TENS of millions of Indian children working illegally in hazardous industries have been ordered out of their jobs in an unprecedented intervention by the Supreme Court.

"We have the fond hope that the closing years of the 20th century will see us keeping the promise made to our children by our constitution about a half-century ago," it said. The court ruled that anybody employing a child illegally must pay 20,000 rupees (£344) into a fund for his or her compulsory education.

Between 44 million and 100 million children work illegally in dangerous jobs. Twelve key industries have been identified by the court, including glass-making, firework manufacture, carpet weaving and brass production. It ruled that children employed in non-hazardous industries should not work more than six hours a day and must receive at least two hours of schooling. India

has many laws supposedly governing the use of child labour, all of which are flouted with virtual impunity.

They ban children working in dangerous occupations, but employers are almost never prosecuted. The children are all low-caste or "untouchables" — now more commonly known as Dalits — giving them little influence with high-caste politicians.

Millions of children work as bonded labourers after being "sold" to employers by parents to pay off debts, which in practice are almost never cleared because of prohibitive interest charged by money-lenders. Police and social workers are bribed to ignore the practice of bonded labour, which is widespread in quarrying and carpet manufacture.

The exploitation of children is also commonplace in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal, none of which have taken decisive steps to stop the

employment of children in dangerous occupations.

The court ordered the state to find a job for an adult from the family of every child removed from a hazardous occupation. Alternatively, the state should give 5,000 rupees towards the child's education. It instructed the Government to conduct a survey of child labour, to be completed within six months.

The constitution mandates compulsory, free education of children until the age of 14. Few areas of India, however, provide adequate schooling. The Government says child labour is the result of poverty and will only be eradicated with growing prosperity.

The Supreme Court frequently intervenes in social issues where it believes politicians have failed to take action, and its latest ruling may goad the Government into taking steps to end some of the worst abuses.



Afghan women in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, hang effigies of Taliban leaders to protest over violations of women's rights in Afghanistan

50,000 have fled Kabul

Kabul: Up to 50,000 people have left Kabul, the Afghan capital, since Taliban militia captured it in September, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Figures from a checkpoint on the road to Pakistan show that 49,099

people left Kabul and 8,631 returned between October 1 and December 7. "People are uncertain about their future. The economy is continuing to deteriorate and unemployment is rising," said Terry Fitzner, UNHCR head in Kabul. (Reuters)

UN chief says Iraq arms trip failed

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

ROLF EKEUS, the chief United Nations weapons inspector for Iraq, declared his latest mission to Baghdad a failure yesterday after the defiant regime prevented him from taking scrapped missile parts to America for analysis.

Iraq's challenge to the UN came a day after President Saddam Hussein pressed the button that started Iraqi oil flowing to world markets for the first time in six years. The country's state-run media said that the deal which allows Baghdad to sell a limited amount of oil to buy food and medicine was not a gift, but "compensation for an unprecedented crime" against the Iraqi people, and promised it would keep fighting for the overall embargo to be lifted. That is impossible until Mr Ekeus gives his approval.

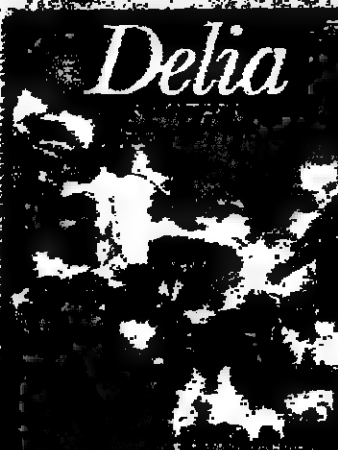
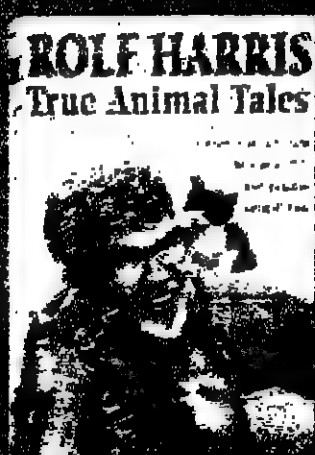
The UN suspects that Iraq has retained between six and 16 Scud missiles like the ones fired at Saudi Arabia and

Israel during the Gulf War. Analysis of the missile components would help the UN to verify the number of missiles Iraq claims to have destroyed and whether the parts were Russian or home-made.

"We have agreed to freeze it [the missile problem] until our next meeting, in February," Mr Ekeus said at the end of his four-day visit to Baghdad. He added that Iraq's refusal to allow his team to remove the scrapped missile parts was a serious breach of a key UN Security Council resolution.

"This is pretty much par for the course," said a Western diplomat monitoring Iraq from Jordan said. "This time Ekeus was going to use a different tactic. In the past, he has asked Iraq to give information about its weapons. This time he planned to tell Iraq what the UN believed Iraq has and was going to warn they better give him a full account."

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OJ jury sees tape of 'secret route'

FROM GILES WHITTILL
IN LOS ANGELES

CAUGHT by chance in an amateur video, a gap in a hedge on O.J. Simpson's estate has given new credence to the theory that he clambered home by a back route after allegedly committing double murder.

The video, taken by Mr Simpson's former secretary and shown in court on Monday, clearly shows a gap in the foliage above a fence behind the guest house in which three loud thuds were heard minutes after the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson, his former wife, and Ronald Goldman, her friend.

Mr Simpson's lawyers in the civil trial, in which he is being sued by the victims' families, argue that a bloody glove found in the alley between the hedge and the guest house was planted by police. But the gap in the foliage is directly above where the glove was found and where the Brown-Goldman legal team says Mr Simpson jumped to the ground before bumping into an air-conditioner protruding from the guest house.

The video was shot a week after the deaths of the two in 1994. It was allowed as evidence despite loud protests from Robert Baker, Mr Simpson's lawyer, who is presenting his case.

A verdict is not expected until next year. If found responsible for the murders, Mr Simpson could be liable for millions of dollars in punitive damages.

Israeli boy is killed in drive-by shooting

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

FEARS of renewed violence in the occupied West Bank rose last night after a 12-year-old Jewish boy was killed and five Israelis were injured in a drive-by shooting by terrorists who were believed to have escaped into the Palestinian-controlled town of Ramallah.

The attack increased right-wing Israeli anger against the possibility of an Israeli pull-out from the last Israeli-occupied West Bank city, Hebron, whose future is the subject of deadlocked negotiations between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority led by Yasser Arafat.

Yesterday's attack took place near the sprawling West Bank settlement of Bet El, not far from the site in September of some of the fiercest gunbattles between Israeli troops and Palestinian police, which left a total of 75 people dead in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli security sources said that the Israeli vehicle was fired on by two gunmen in a car registered by the Palestinian Authority. The attack took place near the Palestinian village of Surda about 15 miles north of Jerusalem. Another Israeli was killed during a similar drive-by attack there in May.

Avigdor Schatz, a Jewish settler in charge of security in the region, said the wounded were thought to come from the same family. He said there were three Palestinians in the

vehicle involved in the attack, two of whom were armed with automatic weapons.

Israel Radio reported that Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, and Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, held urgent consultations after the shooting to consider Israel's response. The radio said that Israel would not take the attack "quietly", although it also quoted Avigdor Kahalani, the Internal Security Minister, as saying that it would not be "realistic" for Israeli forces to enter Ramallah.

Diplomatic sources said that the attack played into the hands of extreme right-wing Jews who say repeatedly that Palestinian-held towns have become bolt-holes for terrorists.

The rightwingers have made it more difficult for Mr Netanyahu to make the concessions needed to secure a troop withdrawal from Hebron. The Hebron negotiations are blocked largely by arguments about what rights of hot pursuit Israeli troops would have in Palestinian areas in the event of attacks on the 450 Jewish settlers who are now living in the heart of the city.

Mr Netanyahu was elected on a platform of providing "peace with security" and has made known since his election in May that he will respond vigorously to all forms of Palestinian terrorism.



A woman being moved to hospital in Jerusalem yesterday after she was shot near Bet El

Tycoon sails to victory in race for Patten job

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

TUNG CHEE-HWA, a shipping tycoon and favourite of the Peking regime, was chosen overwhelmingly as Hong Kong's first Chief Executive yesterday by China's hand-picked Selection Committee.

The 400 members, including many of Hong Kong's richest citizens, gave the 59-year-old Mr Tung 320 votes. Li Liang Yang, the colony's retired Chief Justice, received 42, and Peter Woo, a wealthy entrepreneur, 36. There were two invalid ballots.

Twenty-nine demonstrators outside the hall were arrested, including Emily Lau, Hong Kong's best-known independent democratic legislator. She was later released on bail. After the Selection Committee had left the hall, Mr Tung made a triumphant entry and declared colonialism had ended, adding: "Now we are masters of our own house."

His election was "the first step in Hong Kong's democratisation process", he said, adding "our society has become too politicised in recent years" — a reference to the political reforms initiated by Chris Patten, the Governor, which last year produced a wholly elected Legislative Council, since declared invalid by Peking. The body will be abolished on July 1, 1997, when Hong Kong is transferred to China, being replaced by a Peking-selected Provisional Legislative Council.

Born in Shanghai and educated at Liverpool University,

Mr Tung was, until he resigned in June, a member of Mr Patten's Executive Council or Inner Cabinet. Last January, President Jiang Zemin of China, at a meeting in Peking, indicated with a single handshake that Mr Tung was his favourite to become Chief Executive.

Mr Tung was congratulated immediately yesterday by Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister and Vice-Premier, who chaired the selection process and said the central Government regarded it as a great moment for Hong Kong's democratisation.

The Convention Centre's largest room had been transformed to resemble a hall in Peking's Great Hall of the People for the event, with the national seal floodlit behind a dais and the delegates seated in tightly packed rows.

In Peking, Xinhua, the official news agency, said Mr Tung's election "reflects the wishes of the majority of Hong Kong compatriots".

Anson Chan, Hong Kong's Chief Secretary and Mr Tung's expressed choice to continue as the territory's number two in 1997, said: "I think today is a very important and very happy day for Hong Kong."

Mr Patten urged Mr Tung — who has already said he regards obligations as more important than rights — to defend Hong Kong's rule of law and its individual rights and freedoms.

UN accuses Burundi Army of massacring 1,000 Hutus

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

AT LEAST 1,000 civilians were massacred by the army in Burundi over a four-week period from late October to November, according to the United Nations.

The violence is believed to be continuing as the world continues to focus on eastern Zaire, where Tutsi rebels backed by the Rwandan Army have driven Hutu militias out of refugee camps.

A UN human rights observer mission to Burundi, in a report released yesterday, said fighting between Tutsi-dominated government forces and Hutu rebels had intensified, triggering indiscriminate daily killings. "The human rights situation is alarming, with an

array of massacres by both sides," it says.

The army was responsible for more than 40 massacre incidents while the rebels had been behind eight last month.

"The military has a large responsibility in the massacres, most recently of returnees from Zaire," the report says. About 50,000 refugees, mainly Hutus, have returned to Burundi.

Without safe access to some of the regions, the four UN observers were in many cases unable to give casualty figures. However, they confirmed the massacre of between 250 and 400 refugees who were returning from Zaire in a church in the village

of Murambi in Cibitoke province. In another attack in Gitega province, soldiers killed 35 people as they returned home from church.

The Burundi Army was systematically forcing mainly Hutu villagers to leave their homes and to regroup in camps. "As the period of assembly in camps has ended, the military is said to be spontaneously killing anyone they find in the hills or in fields," the observers said.

Diplomats said the number of army killings, mainly around the capital Bujumbura, and in the east of the country had soared since a military-backed regime seized power in June.



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Dr Thomas Stuttford on kidney stones, a mysterious skin complaint and treating football injuries

Alone in a world of ice — and suffering a curse of modern society

Sir Ranulph Fiennes' arduous solo march in Antarctica has had to be abandoned. He met an insuperable obstacle in the form of kidney stones. The pain from renal stones can be disabling, even if it is experienced in the comfort of home and with a kindly GP, pethidine at the ready, in attendance. To a sufferer in the Antarctic, already miserable, cold and lonely, the agony must have been unbearable.

Urinary tract stones occur in people from all parts of the world, but as countries become more developed, so the favoured site for the stone changes.

In primitive communities, bladder stones are common, just as they were in Britain in the 18th and early 19th century. As industrialisation and modern systems of agriculture — which provides protein-rich foods throughout the year — are established, stones become more frequent in the kidney.

Bladder stones are associated with a protein-deficient diet, whereas kidney stones are related to, among other factors, a high protein intake together with a diet rich in refined carbohydrates.

Kidney stones can also be a sequel to urinary tract infections, and to too small a fluid intake and resulting reduced urinary excretion. In hot climates it is important to keep up a high fluid intake, not only to lessen the chance of developing renal stones, but also malignancies of the kidney.

An inadequate milk intake can also help to cause bladder stones. In 19th-century Britain, a poor diet in infancy — and particularly a deficiency of milk — were blamed for the high incidence of such stones later in life.

In parts of Thailand, where breast-feeding is abandoned early and chewed rice is substituted for maternal milk, there is an unusually high rate of bladder stones among adults.

The risk of stones in the urinary tract is further increased in adults because of their fondness for the leaves of the local vegetables. These leaves are rich in oxalates, salts which provoke the development of stones. In other parts of the world oxalate-rich plants include rhubarb, cocoa, peppers and spinach.

In much of Asia, and also in Europe among those cultures where gout is common, urate stones outnumber those of other salts. Since allopurinol was introduced to lower uric acid levels in the blood, rampant gout is less common, and urate stones are less frequently encountered.

In Britain the majority of renal stones are formed from calcium oxalate or phosphate; when urinary tract infection has persisted for any length of time, ammonium salts are also mixed in to the calcium base.

The size of the stone is no indication of the amount of pain it will cause. A large staghorn calculus growing in an infected kidney pelvis may



Sir Ranulph Fiennes: cold and lonely on his solo Antarctic walk — and now enduring the pain of renal stones

cause backache and a kidney infection, but these are probably less troublesome on an Antarctic trip than a small stone which sticks in the ureter on its way from the kidney to the bladder.

The pain is usually described as agonising and colicky; it is centred on the costovertebral angle, the area of the mid-back below the ribs, in the flanks, and on one side of the abdomen. The pain of renal colic radiates into the genitalia. There may also be pain when passing water, coupled with a frequent desire to do so. There may be blood in the urine and — if there is any secondary infection — also a temperature.

A large, fixed stone causes backache and later signs of urinary tract infection. If not treated, large stones can result in renal failure. Lithotripsy has revolutionised the treatment of kidney stones and reduced the need for surgery.

There are two varieties of lithotripsy — percutaneous or

extracorporeal shockwaves. The method chosen depends on the nature of the stone. In extracorporeal lithotripsy shockwaves are directed through the unbroken skin, so that the stone breaks up and is then passed naturally. Percutaneous lithotripsy involves penetration through the skin.

Small stones need no treatment other than rest — which was obviously impossible on a rigorous Antarctic crossing — together with analgesics. Pethidine is the drug of choice and is carried in most explorers' medical kits. Antibiotics are called for if there is any sign of infection.

Kidney stones can also be a result of metabolic or hormonal dysfunction. Anybody, therefore, who has renal stones where the cause is not obvious should be thoroughly investigated by a nephrologist. Among the preventable causes of renal stones is over-consumption of Vitamin D; many multivitamin tablets include Vitamin D and if more than one is taken it is easy to exceed the maximum dose.

Blisters that could be fatal

Until this year Norman Reddaway, the former British Ambassador in Poland, had never had a day's illness severe enough to stop him going to work and his only brush with medicine was when, in his seventies, he fell off his motorbike. He made an uneventful recovery.

Mr Reddaway, now 78, is justifiably proud to be still as busy as ever. He has directorships in the educational, commercial and industrial world and is tireless in his support of Anglo-Polish friendship.

He is proud, too, of his health, which is exemplified by the aspirins in his bathroom cabinet. These are so little used that they still have a price tag of 1s/6d on the packet. He did not take any other medicines, and apart from the unfortunate incident with the motorbike, did not need to see a doctor until early this summer when he developed pemphigus, a potentially lethal skin disease. Pemphigus is one of a group of diseases which are usually classified together as the "rarer blistering skin disorders".

In May he developed itchy, red patches on his abdomen which, when they failed to respond to Betnovate cream, were treated with steroid tablets. At the end of the month he was in Barcelona, where he sat on a hard chair through a long meeting.

After the meeting the skin of his thighs, where they had been subjected to pressure, had become swollen and blistered. He had similar problems around his neck, where his collar had been tight. The skin was itchy, but life was bearable until the Reddaways started their summer holiday cruising the fjords of Norway. Mrs Reddaway explains how her husband's skin blisters were as "large as ping-pong balls" and tended to occur where there was physical pressure. The blisters broke readily and oozed.

While in Norway he developed another skin condition, erythema multiforme. As a result of the erythema multiforme his hands and feet became red, blistered and denuded of skin so that he was unable to walk and the only answer was to be flown home to hospital in London. He was in hospital for six weeks, where one of the most distressing symptoms of the pemphigus was that each time his sheets were changed quite a lot of his skin remained on them, and he was left with a raw area.

After heavy doses of prednisolone the blisters have gone, although the skin where they were are still a bit red and itchy. But he is out and about again and is no longer in danger from what could have been a fatal disease.

His case is not entirely typical of pemphigus. It is unusual to suffer the intense itching that he experienced, although the skin of the blister was easily rubbed away. Mr Reddaway, too, is older than most people with an initial attack.

There are similar conditions, such as pemphigoid. The difference between them is related to the position of the blisters in the various layers of skin.

The cause of these diseases is unknown but pemphigus is thought to be an auto-immune disease, one of the diseases in which the body's tissues react against themselves. All the skin diseases of this group are sometimes associated with other medical conditions so that a thorough overhaul is part of the treatment.

Life was bearable until the summer holiday began

Switching on the pain relief

ALMOST exactly a year ago Graeme Le Saux's football career nearly came to an untimely end. Blackburn were playing Middlesbrough when he suffered a fracture dislocation of the right ankle — a notoriously difficult fracture to heal which is often associated with severe ligamentous damage around the joint. Le Saux had played for Chelsea before moving to Blackburn, and in 1995 was an established England player. This season, before his comeback, Blackburn were at the bottom of the Premiership.

Given the urgency of the situation, Le Saux's treatment involved the use of a modified Tens (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) machine, as well as routine physiotherapy. Such a machine delivers small electrical impulses to the underlying tissues. When the standard Tens machine is modified to the Macdonald X-Pain device two electrodes are placed over the spine at the level of the first and twelfth thoracic vertebrae. The treatment has reduced Le Saux's pain to a point where he can play football; it also relaxes any spasm in his back. He uses the machine for half an hour a day before training, or playing, and also for the half hour afterwards. Within one month of starting the regime Le Saux had started playing football again, and Blackburn have now climbed out of the relegation zone.



Graeme Le Saux's return to fitness was urgently needed

Screen test to cut cancer death rate

RESULTS of a ten-year study for the early detection of cancer of the colon and rectum have recently been reported in *The Lancet*.

The survey, conducted by Professor Jack Hardcastle, of Nottingham University, tested 75,000 men and women aged 50 to 75 for occult (non-visible) blood; 2 per cent of those who took part in the trial had such blood in their faeces. Of these, colonoscopy showed 40 per cent had benign tumours, and 10 per cent had cancer.

Extrapolating from these figures, Professor Hardcastle estimates that with such screening the present death rate of 19,000 per year from cancer of the colon and rectum could be reduced by 15 per cent.

Some doctors feel that too many people would be unnecessarily subject to investigations, however, and that in other cases the cancer would be missed by this screening of this type.

These doctors suggest that a better plan would be to provide all of those people at increased risk, or with symptoms, to have a colonoscopy examination. Most, however, have been impressed by the results and believe that there is now a need for a national screening campaign.

This opinion has received the support of Dr Robert Kendall, the former Chief Medical Officer of Scotland, who has said that screening for these cancers by testing for occult blood, or by direct examination, must be considered urgently.

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Scent of a woman explained

EVERYBODY smells differently. Some people have such a finely-tuned sense of smell that they know who is in a room even when blindfolded. In a recent report in *Doctor* magazine there is a suggestion that the unpleasant smell of sweat — which is the result of bacterial action on the skin, the sweat and sebaceous glands — also secretes pheromones, scents that are sexually attractive.

Dr Alessandra Graziotin, a gynaecologist from Milan, told the International Congress on the Menopause in Sydney that research has

shown that at the menopause a woman's sense of smell becomes less receptive to male pheromones, and this is a cause of loss of libido in women of this age.

Dr Graziotin explained that even before the menopause, a woman's sense of smell varies throughout her cycle and is strongest at the time of ovulation. Women's perception of smell is more acute than men's and it now seems that this advantage not only enables them to have a finer palate, but also to be equally discriminating about their men.



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Mind your language, Mr Blair

Magnus Linklater on why new Labour has upset the Scots

When John Major uttered his famous eight-letter expletive to describe the right-wingers in his Cabinet, his sock in the country rose enormously. "Bastards" has a satisfying ring to it. People knew what he meant and probably agreed with him. It certainly showed that he was human after all. Whether "wankers" will do the same for Tony Blair is more doubtful: indeed I'm not certain whether the Editor of *The Times* will permit its use in these columns at all. It's not really a nice word, is it? It has a sneering quality more suitable on the football terraces than on the lips of an Opposition leader.

In the interests of accuracy, however, I should report that the exact expression, made in an irritated aside during Mr Blair's trip to Scotland last weekend, was "Who are these unreconstructed wankers?" He was asking about members of the Scottish media, with whom he and his team are having a difficult time — not long ago his press aide dismissed one Scottish political correspondent as "anally retentive". The remark slipped out in an unguarded moment, after a scratchy interview with BBC Scotland. It reflected Mr Blair's frustration that in a part of the United Kingdom traditionally regarded as Labour's heartland, all is not going to plan. Several things have conspired to annoy him. A well-known "focus group" report, of the kind that Labour so often commissions, suggested that Scots find Mr Blair smarmy and untrustworthy. There is still a Jurassic layer of old Labour that obstinately refuses to be weathered away. And a suspicion remains that the leader is ungrounded on the central plank of his party's policy in Scotland, devolution. Tory gibes about the prospect of a "tartan tax" under Labour seem to have hit home with embarrassing frequency. All these things have combined to stain the image of what should be a supremely confident party.

Mr Blair is right to be cross. The focus group in question was not representative, for most of the genuine polling evidence suggests that the average voter north of the border thinks much the same of Tony Blair as people elsewhere. They may find the smile a little too ready and the policies rather too imprecise, but he retains their massed support. A 41 per cent lead over the Conservatives, after all, is not bad going, and out on the streets of a town like Ayr, one of the few Tory-held seats in Scotland, he was greeted last week with an enthusiasm that any of his rivals would die for.

None of this, he complains, is reflected in the questions he is asked when he ventures north. Instead, reporters seem to him to be fixated on the issue of devolution, on arcane matters about two-question referendums, on constitutional details which bother ordinary people not one whit.

Like Margaret Thatcher before him, he is amazed at Scottish commentators' apparent inability to understand the changes he has engineered within his party — changes that are perfectly well understood in the South. The frustration he feels is reflected by his press advisers, a truculent lot for whom the w-word is mild. They castigate correspondents for failing to get the message, and the correspondents, being Scottish and every bit as truculent, reply in kind.

There are lessons here that reach well beyond Scotland. Blaming the media is usually a sign of a party in trouble — but there is no reason why Labour should be in trouble with such a huge lead. If quarrels are being picked at this stage, when everything is flowing nicely, what might happen when the going gets rough? Should there not, instead of hectoring, be a greater attempt to explain the benefits of Labour policies, rather than assuming automatic support?

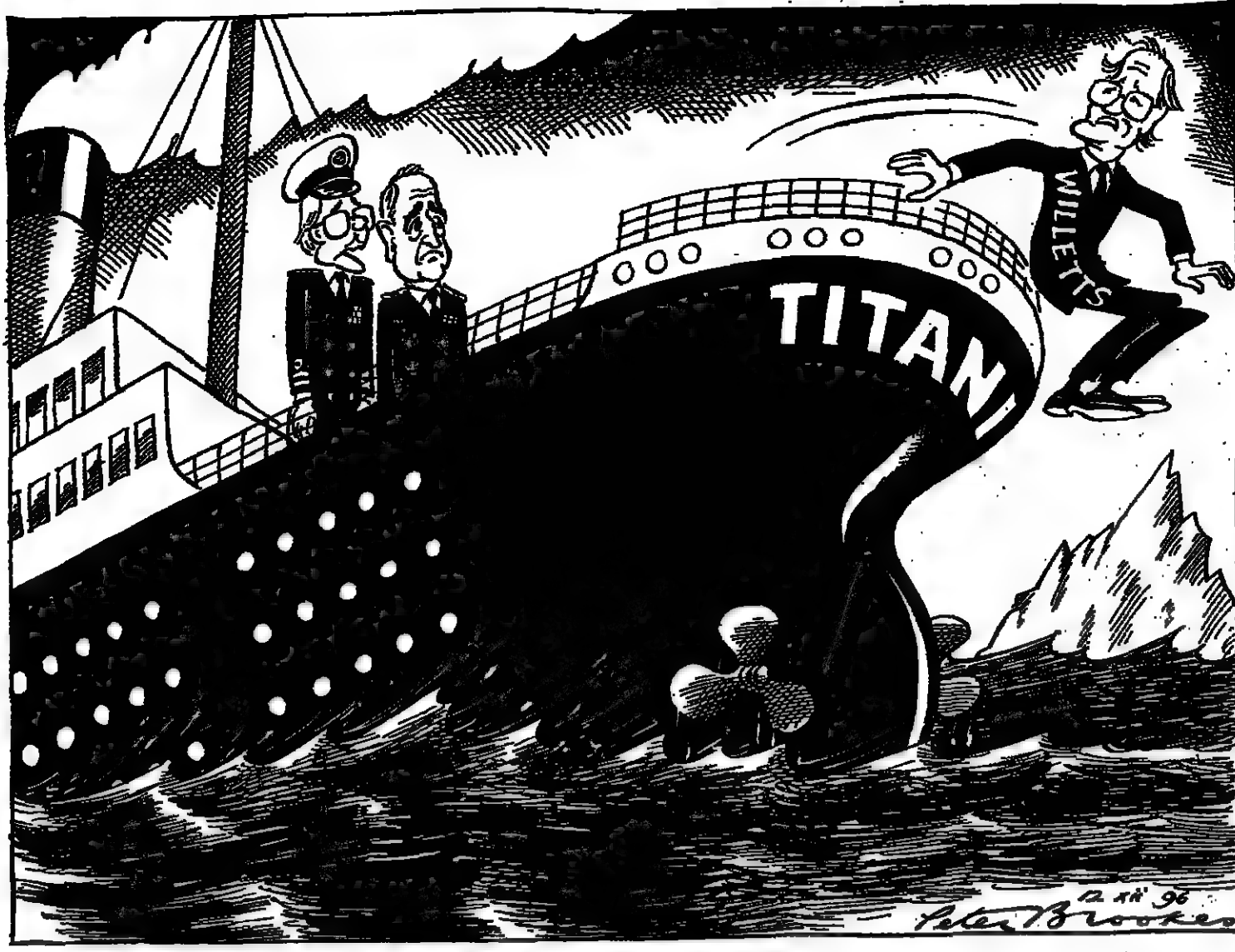
I don't doubt that much of the resentment shown by Scottish reporters stems from the arrogance they detect among new Labour's top team: an unwillingness to engage in argument, and a contempt for any perceptions different from their own.

Blaming the media is a sign of a party in trouble

The same may be happening in Wales, where, some ways, the divisions are still deeper. Here too Labour's plans are seen as imposed from the centre rather than being discussed locally. Here too there are differing views about the virtues of new Labour. One former minister, Ted Rowlands, is trying to amend the party's disciplinary code to allow a free vote among backbenchers on the referendum that has been proposed on devolution. He is unlikely to succeed, but the very attempt suggests a looming conflict that will require smooth diplomacy rather than aggression.

The final lesson is that, irritating as it must often seem, not every bit of the United Kingdom behaves in the same way. While new Labour considers it vital to shore up middle-class support in the South, other parts, such as the North of England, Wales and Scotland, have priorities which reflect more traditional Labour concerns than those Mr Blair is promoting. Old Labour may be a term of abuse at party headquarters, but elsewhere it still commands affection and even respect. It may be infuriating for the party leaders to find old-style Labour officials and an unreconstructed media protecting territory which they think should by now have been ceded, but it is the reality and it has to be dealt with rather than subjected to abuse.

I suggest that a peace initiative might be a better way of handling this reality over the next few months than the hurling of invective. *Cet animal est très méchant, as the French saying goes. Quand on l'attaque, il se défend.*



Wall Street will crash

The American stock market is too high, because 30 million abortions have wiped out a generation of savers

I am connected with two investment newsletters, *Strategic Investment* in the United States and the *Fleet Street Letter* in Britain. Both have been warning for some time that Wall Street was dangerously high. Many other observers believe that too. Now Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has given the same warning. Even his authority has not stopped the market going up as before.

Through *Strategic Investment* I came to know Michael Belkin, who is one of the most respected of American investment analysts. He now writes a regular monthly column for the *Fleet Street Letter*. His latest column argues that Wall Street is dangerously high by historic standards. "By most traditional yardsticks, the US market is exceedingly overvalued. I recently unearthed excellent dividend yield data going back to 1871 in the National Bureau of Economic Research database. The current 2 per cent dividend yield is the lowest in 125 years (the average is 4.5 per cent)."

At present the Dow Jones industrial average stands at a little below 6,500, around its all-time high. If it were to retreat to the 125-year average dividend yield, it would fall to 2,900. Yet dividend yields of 4.5 per cent or higher are not remote memories. They were the norm in the decade 1975-85, as they had been in the 15-year period between 1940 and 1955. When Wall Street finally boils over and starts the descent into the next bear market, dividend yields will rise; it is almost inevitable that at some point they will rise to their long-term historic average.

If one looks at the low points of the major stock market crashes, dividend yields have, of course, been much higher than this 4.5 per cent historic average. In 1873, when Ulysses S. Grant began his second term, dividend yields reached 8.5 per cent; in 1894 they peaked at 7.2 per cent; in 1917, the year the United States entered the First World War, the peak was 9.3, and in 1932, the slump year when Franklin Roosevelt was elected President, it was 9.6 per cent. Even in later years it has gone quite high: in 1941, the year of Pearl Harbor to 9.5, in 1950 to 7.1 and as recently as 1982 to 6.2 per cent.

One can easily calculate what these dividend yields would do to the Dow

Jones, given the present rate at which dividends are actually being paid. The trough of the 1873 Depression would give a Dow Jones figure of 1,500; 1884, 1,800; 1917, 1,400; 1932, 1,400; 1941, 1,400; 1950, 1,800; and 1982, 2,100.

In the past 125 years, the dividend yield on Wall Street stocks has on seven occasions risen to a level which would be reached again only if the stock market were now to fall by 70 per cent or more. On average this crisis level has occurred once every 18 years; it was last reached in 1982, which is only 14 years ago. This arithmetic is scary, even if the market does not want to take any notice of Alan Greenspan.

These calculations provide two indicators. If one takes dividend yields as the yardstick, the market could fall by more than 50 per cent before reaching the average, and by more than 70 per cent before reaching the crisis yield. That is not a prediction, but a measure of the risks of current investment on Wall Street.

One can put this argument another way. Over the coming years, American companies may be able to increase their earnings and dividends by as much as 10 per cent a year. That will be difficult, but is not impossible. If it were achieved, then total dividends would double in seven years, or by 2003. At that point, if the market had remained absolutely static, the dividend yield would not quite have regained its historic average. Wall Street is now discounting another seven years of unbroken growth.

There are some counter-arguments. A number of companies have ceased to use part of their cashflow to pay dividends, and use it instead to buy back stock. The dividend yield, it is said, is no longer as good an indicator as it once was. There is something in this argument, because it accounts for only a fraction of

the decline in the dividend yield. Reinforcing the bearish Greenspan case are the rise in America's current account deficit and in consumer debt. In the quarter which ended last September, the current account deficit reached \$48 billion, the highest ever recorded, even higher than the last quarter of 1987. American exports actually fell, imports rose, the surplus on services fell and the deficit on investment income rose sharply.

The current account deficit works through to the stock market in a number of ways. It has to be financed, and that raises interest rates. It tends to weaken the dollar, which is itself inflationary. Falling exports and rising imports indicate the competition American industry has to face. Higher interest rates and lower profits are a recipe for falling stock markets.

At the same time, the explosion of American mutual fund purchases, which reached nearly \$200 billion in the first ten months of 1996, has not been financed by savings. While the stock market was rising, Americans put money into mutual funds and increased their borrowing on credit cards. Indirectly, much of the new mutual fund money has been borrowed. Mutual fund investors have been attracted by the capital gains, not by the low-dividend income. When they stop increasing their holdings, the market will stop going up, there will no longer be any capital gains, and the 2 per cent dividend yield may seem wholly unacceptable.

Both the current account deficit and the growth of consumer credit reflect the central transformation of America's economy, which is that the consumer society has a spending but not a saving culture. This has been made much worse by the demographic imbalance between post-war births and the subsequent period of abortions. Between 1945 and 1965, America had a baby-boom as the sol-

diers came home and created their families. From 1973 onwards, the Supreme Court approval of abortion on demand in *Roe v Wade* led to the killing of some 30 million fetuses, who would otherwise have been the productive workers of the 21st century.

The baby-boom generation has failed to save for its own retirement, and the missing *Roe v Wade* generation is not there to balance the baby-boomers in retirement. At present the post-war generation is buying mutual funds, but is going into debt to do so. When they retire they will be dissaving on what will probably be a falling market. The Americans cannot expect the Japanese to continue to do the majority of their saving for them, and the Japanese are becoming increasingly reluctant to finance American debt.

At some point there is likely to be a buyers' strike in American mutual funds. Then the market will start to fall, some people will try to get out, and the market momentum will reverse. When this will happen, no one yet knows. I had expected earlier in this bull market, and have no claim to a special insight into market timing. But this cycle will follow the same pattern as past cycles: the forces which will push the market down are being pushed up.

When the bear market does come, how long is it likely to last? Again, there is no certain rule of timing. If one uses rising dividend yields as the measure of a bear market on Wall Street, there have been seven bear markets in the past 125 years, lasting 4, 18, 3, 5, 4, 9 and 3 years. The odds are that the next bear market will be another of the short ones, with a period of around four years, but these are also the sharp ones. The 18-year bear market from 1899 to 1917 gave investors plenty of time to adjust; the three-year bear market from 1929 to 1932 was the worst of all.

The peak of this Wall Street market may be quite close. Already long-term interest rates in American bond markets have been rising. At the start of 1996, American 30-year bonds yielded just under 6 per cent; they now yield close to 6.5 per cent. Falling dividend yields with rising stock prices, matched by rising bond yields with falling bond prices, are a classic Wall Street signal of storms to come. That was the pattern of the 1987 crash; it could happen again in 1997.

A David yields to Goliaths

Willetts outclasses his critics, insists Bruce Anderson

David Willetts has made a sensible decision: a short-term sacrifice which will work to his long-term advantage. When he first ran into trouble, not all his Tory colleagues were upset. He was not universally liked then, but his subsequent behaviour has won him popularity and respect.

Mr Willetts is an able fellow with an outstanding academic record. Briefly a Treasury civil servant, he was Nigel Lawson's private secretary when Lawson was Financial Secretary to the Treasury. Mr Willetts went on to the No 10 policy unit and then successfully ran the Centre for Policy Studies before being selected for a safe seat. Four years after reaching the Commons, he was the first of his intake to become a minister of state.

It was a rapid and impressive rise, and as such it attracted envy. When Mr Willetts arrived at the Centre for Policy Studies some of the board members obviously thought that they had hired a bright young researcher who would mole away in a back room. Instead, he started attracting the personal publicity which helped to launch him into Parliament. This aroused resentment, and Peregrine Worsthorne has run an eccentric campaign against Mr Willetts in *The Sunday Telegraph*.

Promotion to minister led to a further outbreak of jealousy. Some said he was a naive intellectual with no experience of real politics or understanding of real people. He was also accused of being too pleased with himself. The second charge was unfair. For such a bright chap Mr Willetts has a surprisingly equable temperament. He also has a happy home life: his wife Sarah is a promising painter. Life has been kind to him, and when he is enjoying himself it shows — but he likes others to enjoy themselves too.

There was some substance in the accusations of political naivety. That is why he was made a government whip: it was felt that he needed to further his political education by exposure to the rougher aspects of the trade. But his stint in the whip's office was never meant to be more than an interlude. His strengths lie in helping the Tories to formulate and win intellectual arguments.

None of this satisfied his detractors, so when they heard that he was up before the back, a number of Tory MPs relished the thought. His performance in front of the Standards and Privileges Committee persuaded most of them that they were wrong. He was at once respectful and tenacious, staying calm even when his questioners became heated, taking the proceedings seriously long after they had ceased to be so.

The charges arose from a scribbled whip's office memo, which in any previous Parliament would have been regarded as a private paper. Mr Willetts readily concedes that it was a poor example of a whip's office note, in that it contained too much about what he thought and too little about what others had said. It has now been subjected to the sort of textual analysis that could be justified only for a passage from the Bible or Shakespeare.

The committee's criticisms hinged on the word "want" in the phrase "wants advice". Did Mr Willetts mean "want" as in needs, or wants as in seeks? As a whip, Mr Willetts must have written hundreds of such notes: why on earth should he be expected to remember what he meant?

The committee's performance was unworthy of Parliament. Anti Taylor was intent on party advantage, while Dale Campbell-Savours, as usual, was in the grip of his own obsessions. Quentin Davies, a clever man without a government job, could hardly bear to be in the same room as a clever man with a job. Mr Davies was once fined £1,500 because his sheep had been left to starve; he was responsible for a graver error of judgment than Mr Willetts. But Mr Davies has never been known for his sense of proportion.

Among the committee's other members was Ernie Ross. No one could accuse him of radiating *joie de vivre*. A leading member of the Tam McGreivance wing of the Scottish Labour Party, Mr Ross was barely capable of asking an intelligible question.

Tony Newton, the chairman, was intent on producing a unanimous report to preserve his committee's reputation. That too was an error of judgment: there was none worth preserving. A committee that leaks and is driven by partisan considerations is incapable of acting in a quasi-judicial role.

David Willetts might have fought back, but in the present jaundiced mood, it would have been unwise. Resigning should not only help to expose the unjust verdict against him, but should confirm the good impression among his colleagues of coolness under fire. His career will prosper, which is more than the committee deserves to do. It exists to uphold the integrity of Parliament, but it has violated the very standards it ought to have upheld. Its report is not only a breach of the privilege of fair hearing, but a contempt of Parliament.

The author is political columnist for *The Spectator*.

Happy family

CHRISTMAS CARDS from Diana, Princess of Wales, bear a picture of her children, Princes William and Harry, posing with their cousins, the Princesses Eugenie and Beatrice. The photograph was taken when the children were holidaying with their mums in France this summer.

The family picture highlights the strength of the current alliance between the Princess and the Duchess of York, two divorcees who have pulled few punches over their views on courtiers at Buckingham Palace. "The picture of the four children together explains itself," said the Princess's private office, flatly.

The Duke and Duchess of York have approved the use of the picture, but are unlikely to use it as their Christmas card, which has yet to go out. The Duchess was in New York yesterday, negotiating a multi-million-pound deal to appear as a chat show host, and squeezed in the Jay Leno show.

The Princess, on the other hand, was recovering yesterday from her fleeing New York visit. In the morning, she visited her acupuncturist in Camden.

● Mystery surrounds the identity

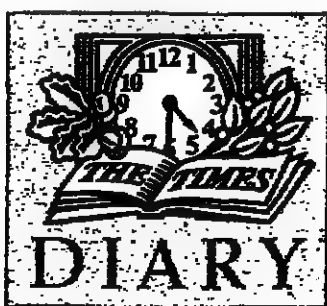
ancient Scottish barony of Blair, dating from the middle of the 12th century, has been snapped up by an anonymous buyer for a sum approaching £60,000 before it could come to auction. A present from Cherie?

Evans sake

AN EFFERVESCENCE of Evanses gathered on Tuesday evening at a party thrown by the



"It's not a model: it's the



Welsh Secretary William Hague. As MPs Roger Evans (Monmouth) and Nigel Evans (Ribble Valley) were squaring up to David Evans (Weymouth), another couple of David Evanses emerged: Evans, the candidate for Neath, and Evans the "lost deposit", candidate for Newport East.

Had the two MPs arrived with their wives, guests would surely have been in seventh Evans.

With love

BORIS YELTSIN JR, the hairy-lipped grandson of the Russian President who was told to remove his moustache to comply with school rules, has given his six bodyguards the slip at Millfield School in Somerset to find himself a girlfriend.

Young Boris, who is usually surrounded by burly former KGB

with a girl from the school swimming team. "She is jolly fit," says an envious admirer.

Boris can no longer contact his lady as readily as he might once have done. Courtship at the school has recently been conducted by mobile phone, often from classroom to classroom. "They have banned mobile phones at the school now," says a relieved parent. "It was a bit distracting during lessons."

● Willie Rushton has left behind him one of the more colourful of answerphone messages. The greeting ran: "Bollocks the butler speaking. What splendid news about mad-cow disease. That explains the last 20 years and I thought I was the one who was



barny." The message continued: "Please leave a spring-like message after the moo... Mooooooooo!"

No flagging

QUEEN ELIZABETH the Queen Mother was in tremendous spirits at a reception at St James's Palace on Tuesday to celebrate the running of the 150th Martell Grand National next year. She spent a good hour walking about chatting to guests, and she plans another big party next week for her staff. Strangest sight of the evening was Andrew Parker Bowles, hitching up the legs of his suit to show off his pines. "Look at them," he said to the bewilderment of onlookers, "the strongest calves in London." For stamina and fitness, however, no one came close to Her Majesty.

Wax lyrical

BARONESS FLATHER, the first Asian woman in the House of Lords, has ticked off Madame Tussaud's for its slovenly dress sense. On a recent visit with her two great nieces to see the waxworks, she noticed something amiss with Indira Gandhi. "The sari is not draped properly," she pointed out, "and is of a style that Mrs Gandhi would never have worn."

As a frequent visitor to the Gan-



Indira Gandhi: newswart?

knows what she is talking about. Tussaud's has hauled Indira out of the exhibition and the wardrobe designer is to receive stern instruction from the baroness in the "Delhi drape". "It may well be that he does not have the appropriate sari and accessories, in which case I may have to take him shopping," she says.

P.H.S.



THE DECENT THING

Willetts was right to resign rather than resist

In the end it was more Jeffrey Archer than Jane Austen. Having initially indicated that he would resist calls for his departure, apologise with all due contrition and place himself at the mercy of his parliamentary colleagues, David Willetts instead chose resignation. His swift decision produced a drama at Westminster and an embarrassing loss for John Major's Government.

It is difficult not to feel some sympathy for Mr Willetts. A politician of intelligence and ability, he has been brought to book less for what he actually did — which few in Westminster would claim was novel or even especially outrageous — than that public light fell upon the usually invisible world of the Whips Office. Conservative backbenchers, indeed some Labour members, felt that others had stayed in office despite perhaps more serious malpractice. Mr Willetts has, to some extent, paid the price of the reluctance of others under John Major to surrender their red boxes with due decorum.

On that basis the Paymaster General might have mustered some sort of defence. A man who claims to use the word "in the Jane Austen sense" could, in his defence, have entered a lively linguistic debate on the best meaning of the term "dissemble". However, Mr Willetts rightly recognised that the report cast serious doubts upon his account of the note he produced immediately after his conversation with Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith. Although party and parliamentary managers wanted him to fight his corner and remain in office, no minister of the Crown could comfortably continue while his reputation was in dispute. Mr Willetts deserves credit for recognising that and leaving with grace and speed.

Much attention will focus on the role of Quentin Davies MP. His brutal cross-examination of Mr Willetts astonished fellow Tories. The widespread, possibly unfairly cynical, assumption has been to make malice his motivation. That may have

some truth, but is not the explanation for the chain of events that followed. The whole committee felt that it could not "accept much of the memorandum submitted" by Mr Willetts and that he had "substantially aggravated the original offence". Those sentences proved fatal.

The treatment of Mr Willetts was the opening test for the Committee on Standards and Privileges. It was created in the aftermath of the Nolan report to reinforce public confidence in the House of Commons. The forceful tone adopted in this document, and the strenuous efforts made to reach unanimous agreement on its contents, suggest that the committee is serious about treating its remit with respect and is capable of acting above partisanship. Had divergent majority and minority reports been issued, along simple party lines, few would have had any faith in the new arrangements.

It is good that the Nolan arrangements have not yet failed. It is not yet proven that they have succeeded. In many respects the Willetts affair was straightforward. The case involved one piece of paper, consisting of rather explicit text whose authenticity was not in dispute. The only room for argument concerned its interpretation and even that, as Mr Willetts's obvious discomfort in public testimony displayed, was limited. Few future cases will be that simple. The whole Hamilton episode that will now consume the committee is a much greater challenge. The accusations there are much more complex and their substance is far more serious.

If the Committee on Standards and Privileges can produce a bipartisan assessment, and similarly coherent conclusion, in these circumstances then it will be entitled to significant credit. The strange affair of Mr Willetts suggest that is at least possible. It is also essential if Lord Nolan is not to be recalled to recommend far more radical remedial measures.

SITTING ON THEIR ARMOURY

The prospects for peace are bleaker than ever

Hope springs eternal in the battered breast of John Hume. Later today the SDLP leader should meet Gerry Adams in an effort to secure another IRA ceasefire. There is something of William Dobbin in Mr Hume's wooing of the republicans in defiance of all evidence of their integrity. Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, Martin McGuinness, has dismissed prospects of an IRA ceasefire as "virtually non-existent". His words were bleak confirmation of what security sources had already detected. Two weeks ago the RUC discovered 2,400 lbs of explosive hidden in the Armagh countryside. Earlier this week, the Garda reported IRA military activity on the border at a pitch not seen since the August 1994 ceasefire. Far from enjoying peace this Christmas, Ulster seems likely to be facing a difficult new year.

Republican apologists argue that the IRA has no choice but war because Sinn Féin has been denied the right to attend talks on Northern Ireland's future on the same terms as other parties. But Sinn Féin has been asking for a privileged place at the talks table — sitting pretty in its armoury. Sinn Féin would not call the complete ceasefire that might have won it a place in negotiations unless it could be certain the IRA retained not just its weaponry, but its full fighting capacity. If Sinn Féin were forced to compete on the same basis as other political groups it would command barely more attention than the Alliance Party. It is the quality of the IRA's artillery, not Sinn Féin's analysis, that concentrates minds.

No one appreciates that fact more than the men of the IRA's Army Council. During the last ceasefire they trained, targeted enemies, recruited and resupplied their forces. New bomb factories were established in London

after the IRA had proclaimed a "complete cessation of violence". Even as the British Government prepared to relax its position on the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons, the IRA was developing new mortars and the republican leader Brian Keenan was assuring supporters that the only decommissioning they would see was that of "the British State in Ireland".

Having been duped once by republican intentions the British Government was wise to insist that it be assured of the sincerity of any new ceasefire before admitting Sinn Féin to talks. The Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, can direct no criticism of substance at Britain's position. Even Nancy Soderberg, President Clinton's deputy assistant for National Security, who has given Gerry Adams the benefit of past doubts, has endorsed current British caution.

The Northern Ireland Secretary has been criticised this week for having to plunder his housing and education budgets to spend more on security. Sir Patrick Mayhew would undoubtedly prefer to cut his cake differently, but he is left with no option. The nature of current IRA activity suggests that attacks on Government targets in Northern Ireland are imminent. Although the security forces have severely disrupted IRA operations on the British mainland, it is also possible that republicans will strike at significant targets outside Ulster. These are not the actions of a movement that has ever been sincere about peace, consent or compromise, but the behaviour of an organisation wedded to victory through violence. Rather than talking to Mr Adams today Mr Hume's energies would be better directed to working with those whose commitment to democracy is not in doubt.

SPREAD THE JAM

London needs alternative modes and nodes of transport

London's commuters are a resilient breed, their patience tested and seldom found wanting in the daily struggle to work. But even the hardiest must have begun to doubt their sanity on Tuesday night, as a series of incidents triggered by a lorry lodging itself in the Blackwall Tunnel created the biggest traffic-jam in the City and East End for 16 years. As the queues edged forward, as tempers rose and dinners spoilt, a single truth became plain to all. A system that can collapse so dramatically as a result of a single incident is a system crying out for fresh thought.

Transport has always been based on an economic and not a biological paradigm. Economics seeks the lowest-cost basket, and puts all its eggs in it. Biology relies on a built-in redundancy, providing a range of different ways of achieving the same result: when one way fails, there are others readily available. Thanks to the Victorians, Londoners still have these alternatives, in the shape of train and Tube, but they have been neglected for decades. As a result they remain the best option only for those who have no car, or nowhere to park the one they do have. For the rest, driving to work makes economic sense, and that is the only sense the system acknowledges.

But even if good alternatives were available, transport could not function effectively in a biological sense in the absence of information. Those lucky enough

to know early enough on Tuesday that the tunnel was blocked had the opportunity of making alternative arrangements, abandoning their cars and making the journey home by other means. In a world where information is available at the touch of a computer key, and roads are frequently scanned by cameras, nobody has seen fit to link the two and provide instant information about congestion. A "congestion index" for every major road, altering minute by minute during the day, accessible by telephone or Internet, would allow drivers to plan their journeys. Some systems inside cars are beginning to meet this need, at a cost; but at present most motorists have only the radio travel reports, which never reveal a jam until the driver is already part of it.

It is tempting to call for road improvements to prevent traffic collapses like Tuesday's, and some simple changes would certainly help. A bigger tunnel under the Thames, or a more foolproof way of preventing oversized lorries from getting stuck in it, suggest themselves. But ultimately any network of roads feeding into a major city like London will include nodes where the traffic is squeezed and where jams are inevitable. Even the human bloodstream, a marvel of smooth-flowing distribution, suffers a risk of thrombosis. The balance between road and rail needs to be improved — as well as the traffic flow of information and truth.

Prospects for UK in or out of EMU

From Mrs Gillian Bardin

Sir, It is ironic that the patience of the Tory party should have run out at the precise moment when the EMU debate has begun in earnest here in France.

Three weeks ago former President Giscard d'Estaing, himself father of the original eco, called into question the franc/mark parity, and minds have further been focused by concern over the precise meaning of the stability pact. On December 5 *Figaro Economique* reported that the European Budget Minister, Alain Lamassoure, had said on the previous day:

We want a rigorous scheme but... one which would acknowledge national sovereignty and recognise that budgetary and fiscal policy must remain within the domain of national parliaments. We must speak to our parliaments before speaking to our people.

The French newspapers are full of articles by economists and academics questioning the advisability of rushing heading into EMU when the deflationary results of European monetary policy have become clear to all. As a few months ago in Britain, talk of the gold standard is making a comeback, linked here of course to the name of Charles de Gaulle. More interestingly, there is serious re-examination of the common currency or hard eco linked, in this case, to the name of the newly respected John Major.

It may no longer be unrealistic to see the advent of a European currency as a national corollary of European stability and prosperity, based on the best elements of the British example.

Yours sincerely,

GILLIAN BARDIN
(Maitre de Conférences,
Institut de Political Studies,
27 Rue St Guillaume, Paris,
December 3.

From Mr Gavin Drake

Sir, In his Budget speech (reports, November 27) Kenneth Clarke said that Britain would meet the Maastricht criteria for entry into a European single currency in 1997. He said: Our option whether to join or stay out of a single currency, based on British national interest, remains a genuine choice for the next Parliament to exercise. When the time comes.

This complements the Prime Minister's intention to "wait and see" and to "rule nothing out" as far as monetary union is concerned.

This all sounds very good, but, according to some EU members' interpretation, unless Britain rejoins the exchange-rate mechanism by the end of this month, then we will not be able to join EMU with the first wave on January 1, 1999.

If the Government really intends to wait and see, to rule nothing out now in and to decide at the time, then it must take us into the exchange-rate mechanism without delay. Otherwise it will be ruling out monetary union and preventing the decision being taken later, at least as far as the first wave is concerned.

Yours sincerely,
GAVIN DRAKE,
32 Catherston, Telford, Shropshire,
December 10.

From Mr Derek Sawyer

Sir, It is glib of William Rees-Mogg to assert that "Almost all the relevant facts are known already" regarding a decision to join the single currency (article, December 9).

On the same day your *Industrial Editor* reports (Business News) the Director-General of the CBI as insisting that the pro-EMU and anti-EMU arguments remain complex and balanced. At the end of the same piece, Lloyds Bank is reported as saying that there is widespread fear and confusion among small businesses about the effects of a single European currency and, according to the managing director of business banking at Lloyds TSB, many small firms "do not fully understand the practical implications of a single currency... whether the UK joins or not".

What is needed is clear statements on the pros and cons of what Rees-Mogg rightly calls "the biggest economic decision since Britain joined the Common Market". The public deserves facts, not sound-bites from our politicians of whatever party.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK SAWYER,
155 Westfields,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
December 10.

From Mr Hywel James

Sir, Anyone who has found the season's weather depressing will have been plunged into further gloom by Robert Schenckinger's suggested briefing note on Britain and Europe for a US President elected in 2004 (article, December 5).

The idea that the Tories will still be in power, let alone the thought of a Portillo premiership, was dreadful when I was just beginning to contemplate Christmas and a bit of good cheer.

Europhobia of this intensity demands a helpline. Perhaps Esther Rantzen could take up the idea.

Yours etc,
HYWEL JAMES,
Spencer House, Colford, Devon,
December 5.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Surgeons advertising to bypass GPs

From Mr Harvey White, FRCS

Sir, While agreeing with the Chairman of the Patients Association (letter, December 4) that it is important to know about the basis of medical referrals and their outcomes, *The Medical Directory* (with the approval of the General Medical Council) appears to be approaching the problem in the wrong way.

It is inviting surgical specialists to declare for publication the number of procedures carried out. This is both dangerous and misleading without audit or peer review. Like Sir Rodney Sweetnam (letter, November 26; see also letter, December 10), I believe that general practitioners should continue to be the independent regulators of the flow of patients.

In the private sector, an additional problem arises from the major insurers setting themselves up as both the purchasers and providers of healthcare. They insure the patients, and effectively attempt to hire the surgeons by drawing up lists of preferred practitioners for the hospitals which they own for in which they have a large financial interest, making no allowance for where they practise or for their experience. This is in my view a dangerous restrictive practice.

While accepting that changes must take place, I feel that manipulative insurance companies and the intro-

duction of advertising will, in the long term, work to the disadvantage of patients and to the detriment of the profession.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY WHITE,
149 Harley Street, W1,
December 6.

From Dr Trevor Vaughan

Sir, As a consulting chartered psychologist, I often get clients who come to me with sexual or psychiatric problems which lie outside the field of counselling and require specialist treatment. In theory they should go to their GP and be referred to appropriate specialists but they avoid this because they know that their case will be recorded in GP notes, and may prejudice later applications for insurance or certain classes of occupation. So they try to find specialist help directly and, failing, ask me to help them.

How many unknown cases like this deteriorate for want of early diagnosis and treatment? And would it not be far better if such people could seek specialist help directly — and discreetly?

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR VAUGHAN,
10 Beechwood Avenue,
Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire,
December 4.

Support for disabled

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, Tucker Carlson writes: "Life for most people with Down's syndrome has become strikingly normal" (article, "When a life is worth living", November 29; see also letter, December 5). This may be true for some, but I doubt if it applies to most.

Unfortunately there is still a social stigma attached to those with Down's syndrome who survive beyond infancy — now the majority. Not all parents have the ability to cope with a child so handicapped, despite all the support that may be available and for some fetuses affected by Down's syndrome abortion may be the lesser of two evils.

The will and the capacity to deal with the extra mental and physical requirements of a disabled child is more than some parents can accept, or be expected to. All mothers-to-be want a normal child. Anything else may undermine the family structure, causing disruption in the lives of siblings, and unmitigated stress to their parents. In turn such stress affects the life of the handicapped child. No one who is familiar with this scenario can call it normal — let alone strikingly normal.

However, I salute all parents who cope with the prospect of many years

of caring for their DS son or daughter.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village,
Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire.

From Miss Hilary Lloyd

Sir, I am a carer who looks after a very severely disabled young woman of 26. She was born with cerebral palsy and is blind with no speech. She has no voluntary movement and is totally dependent on those who support her.

Until she was 19 she had ample help with her education, health care and general wellbeing but when she became an adult it was a different story. As her disabilities became harder to manage, so the facilities available to her diminished. Services for disabled adults are totally inadequate.

Parents of children with disabilities face a very bleak future unless the disabilities are mild enough to allow reasonable independence. Modern medicines may mean children with severe disabilities live into adulthood, but resources are not necessarily available to support them. In fighting for a better deal for children we must not forget their long-term prospects.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY LLOYD,
9 Winsley Road,
Northern Moor, Manchester.

Lord's media centre

From Mr David Grant

Sir, It may be perfectly reasonable to have a media centre at Lord's cricket ground, but it is entirely unreasonable to build it at the proposed location at the Nursery End (report, September 7; Sports letters, September 14, 23).

Perhaps the most striking, and certainly the most precious, visual aspect of Lord's is the view of the trees from the Pavilion towards the Nursery End. That is what makes Lord's so different from most if not all other Test grounds. It was precisely to preserve this view that the late Gubby Allen fought so hard to ensure that the Pavilion and Stand stands were built in such a way that they did not form a continuous visual barrier.

Allen's was a doughy and (literally) far-sighted stance. Siting the proposed media centre in the middle of the gap between the Pavilion and Edrich

stands will defeat the whole purpose of what has been achieved to date.

One of the first principles of good design of buildings is to have regard to the space between them, as much as to the buildings themselves. This scheme offends against that principle, and as a result one of the most precious aspects of Lord's will be lost.

It cannot be beyond the skill and imagination of the engineers, etc., to locate the necessary electronic equipment in another building (eg, in the new Grandstand) or to use part of the Pavilion itself for such purposes.

The special general meeting which, together with a postal ballot, will decide this issue is to be held on December 16. Members should reject the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID GRANT,
13 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4,
December 5.

Labour and Falklands

From Mr Tony Lloyd,
MP for Stretford (Labour)

Sir, Your report "Falkland Islands fear for future under Labour" (December 9) misrepresents Labour policy on the islands. British policy towards the Falklands will not change when the Labour government takes power.

On a recent visit to the Falklands I reaffirmed Labour's position that the sovereignty of the islands is a matter for the people who live there. I welcomed the decision of the islands' Legislative Council to issue visas to the families of the Argentinians who died during the 1982 war as a humane and compassionate gesture.

I also recognised that the decision as to who should be admitted to the islands is a matter for the islanders and not for the British Government. A

Labour government will not be "determined to nudge them into closer relations with Argentina".

It is clear that the recent round of oil exploration talks have benefited from discussions between the islanders and representatives of the Argentinian and British Governments. Similarly, the successful completion of the fisheries talks depends on reaching a mutually acceptable agreement between the islanders and the Argentinian and British Governments. It is therefore in the interests of the islanders to examine how far they should go in normalising relations with Argentina in these and other areas. This is not, however, something Labour in government could impose on them.

Yours faithfully,
TONY LLOYD (Opposition
Foreign Affairs Spokesman),
House of Commons.

Saints approved

From Mrs Carol Twinch

Sir, With dismay I read of the "discovery" that St Disen did not exist and is a muddled spelling mistake for St Denis (report, December 2).

But the parishioners of Bradninch should take heart: St Disen is otherwise known as Disibod, who founded the Monastery of Disibodenberg near Bingen, Germany, in about AD 700. It was there that the 12th-century St Hildegard, the first of the great German mystics, wrote *A Life of St Disen*. In their *Book of Saints*, published in 1947, the Ramsay Monks awarded the Disibod legend an "approved" sta-

Inspiring example of Douglas Bader

From Lady Dundas

Sir, I have watched the last two programmes in the Channel 4 series *Secret Lives with Disney*. In each case the producers have concentrated on comparatively unimportant facets of the lives of Lord Beaverbrook and Sir Douglas Bader (report, December 9; television review, December 10) thereby creating a negative and misleading impression of their characters.

It so happened that both these men had a profound influence on my late husband — Hugh Dundas.

Firstly, he flew with Bader from September 1940 until August 8, 1941, when Bader was brought down over France. After their first meeting my husband wrote: "He showed me quite clearly by his example the way in which a man should behave in time of war" and: "Here was a man made in the mould of Francis Drake — a man to be followed, a man who would win."

My husband was aged 20 at the time, had been shot down a month before and "viewed the prospect of combat with real inner fear". Bader's leadership and courage enabled him to continue flying Spitfires in action until the end of the war in Europe, and Bader remained a great and true friend until his death.

Secondly, after the war my husband worked for 13 years for Express Newspapers. At one time, as leader writer on *The Daily Express*, he was in almost daily contact with Lord Beaverbrook on the telephone. My husband admired him enormously and, despite disagreeing with him and leaving *Express Newspapers* in the late Sixties, he remained a staunch supporter of a great newspaperman and was proud to have worked for him.

Everyone has faults, no one is perfect, but it seems that the denigration of great men is a symptom of the sickness of our times.

Yours faithfully,
ROSAMOND DUNDAS,
55 Ivorna Court, W8,
December 10.

From General Sir Robert Ford

Sir, On one of my visits to the wounded in Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast, in 1972 when I was Commander, Land Forces Northern Ireland, I went to see a young Guardsman who had lost the greater part of both legs as a result of IRA actions.

It was my custom never to enter wards if relatives or close friends were in attendance. But on this occasion I was misinformed and found his parents with him. I consulted immediately, but when I withdrew the medical staff who were looking after him, I was made aware that this tragic young man urgently needed more than medical assistance if he was to overcome the trauma of his condition.

That evening I decided to write to Douglas Bader, whom I had never met at that time, asking him if he could find time to send the Guardsman a letter of encouragement.

Some two weeks later, having had no response, I went to see the soldier again. He told me that one afternoon about ten days previously, Bader had suddenly walked into the ward and spent more than an hour with him. I later discovered that not only was no one at the hospital aware of this impending visit, but that he had flown over unannounced in the morning, returning in the afternoon.

The medical team all agreed that in that one hour, Douglas Bader had transformed that young man's morale and outlook and given him real hope and inspiration.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT FORD,
c/o The Army Benevolent Fund,
41 Queen's Gate, SW7,
December 10.

From Mr Tad Hailstone

Sir, Who cares if Douglas Bader shot down four enemy aircraft or 40, the fact that he was there is good enough for me.

Yours faithfully,
TED HAILSTONE,
Shelly Farm Cottages, Shelly Lane,
Monkspath, Solihull, West Midlands,
November 10.

Scott deselection

From Mr D. P. Hannon

Sir, I am sure that Simon Jenkins appreciates that the process, which he calls undemocratic ("Whipped and spurred", December 4), by which Sir Nicholas Scott ceased to be a prospective parliamentary candidate was more or less the same as that which made him one in the first place?

Yours faithfully,
D. P. HANNON,
Breakers, Atlantic Terrace,
New Polzeath, Wadebridge, Cornwall

Value for money?

From Mr Jack Aspinall

Sir, It may indeed be that tens of thousands of people poured into the Metro Centre near Gateshead when it opened on Sunday and spent an average of £125 compared with last year's £110 (report, December 9), but did they get any more for their money?

Yours faithfully,
JACK ASPINALL,
72 Woodcote Valley Road,
Purley, Surrey,
December 9.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 11: His Excellency Dr Milos Radulovic was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from Yugoslavia to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Radulovic was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Queen received His Excellency Chief Emeke Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General.

His Excellency Mr Janis Lusia and Mrs Lusia were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Latvia to the Court of St James's.

Sir Charles Maclean of Dunconnel was received by The Queen and delivered up the insignia of the Order of the Thistle worn by his father, the late Sir Fitzroy Maclean of Dunconnel.

This afternoon, Her Majesty opened the New Headquarters of the Institute of Physics, 76 Portland Place, London W1, and was received by the President (Dr Brian Manley).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 11: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, this afternoon attended a council meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, President, Animal Health Trust, this evening attended a Dinner at the Banqueting House

at Whitehall, London SW1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 11: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning held a report back meeting for members of the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the European Parliament at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, this afternoon gave a Luncheon at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum, later attended an international board meeting at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a concert and dinner for supporters of The Princess Margarita of Romania Trust at St James's Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 11: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at the British-American-Canadian Ball held in aid of the British-American-Canadian Association's educational programme, at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, W1.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 11: The Duke of Kent, President, the Engineering Council, this morning attended a Senate Meeting at the Institute of Materials, Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1.

His Royal Highness, Patron, the London Philharmonic, this evening attended a concert at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London, SE1.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will open the new Salvation Army Westminster Centre at 18 Great Peter Street, SW1, at 3.00.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, as Patron of the Courtauld Institute of Art Trust, will visit an exhibition of the work of William Chambers and have luncheon at Somerset House at 12.50.

The Princess Royal, as President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend

the meeting of the board of trustees at the Hotel Intercontinental at 11.00 followed by a carers day reception. The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Basic Skills Agency, will attend the end of year reception at Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street at 5.00; and, as President of the Missions to Seamen, will attend a carol concert at Merchant Taylors' Hall at 7.20. The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the Leukemia Research Fund, will attend a carol concert at the Royal Albert Hall at 7.00.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Samuel, 1st Viscount Hood, Admiral, Budeigh, Somerset, 1724; Erasmus Darwin, physician, Edin., Nottinghamshire, 1731; Anna Seward (the Swan of Lichfield), poet and novelist, Eym Rectory, Derbyshire, 1747; Sir William Beechey, painter, Burford, Oxfordshire, 1753; William Lloyd Garrison, militant Abolitionist, Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1805; Gustave Flaubert, novelist, Rouen, 1821; John Richard Green, historian, Oxford, 1837; Edward Munch, painter, Loten, Norway, 1863; Edward G. Robinson, actor, Bucharest, 1893.

DEATHS: John Craig, Kirk leader, Edinburgh, 1600;

Albrecht von Haller, botanist and poet, Berne, 1777; Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, engineer, 1781; Jean Louis Agassiz, naturalist, Cambridge, 1873; Robert Browning, poet, Venice, 1889; Douglas Fairbanks Sr, film actor, Santa Monica, California, 1939; Peter Fraser, Prime Minister of New Zealand 1940-49, Wellington, 1950; Tallulah Bankhead, actress, New York, 1968.

Marconi gave the first public demonstration of radio at Toynbee Hall, London, 1896. Christopher Cockerell patented his prototype of the hovercraft, 1955.

Kenya became a republic, 1964.

Cranach's early Paris fetches close to £2m

By JOHN SHAW

A GERMAN Renaissance masterpiece, *The Judgement of Paris* by Lucas Cranach the Elder, sold for £1.981 million at Sotheby's in London yesterday.

The 16th-century work was bought anonymously and was the centrepiece of a strong group of early German pictures in the firm's major winter Old Master option.

The pre-sale estimate was in the region of £1.5 million. The painting, an oil on panel dated to about 1524-44, is the artist's earliest version of the subject he returned to many times over the following 30 years. It had been in the same family ownership since the 19th century.

Cranach avoids the classical source of the story to make Paris a knight in armour who loses his way while hunting and then, in a dream, is asked to choose which of three goddesses is the fairest. He refuses to do so until they disrobe. The depiction of him as a knight may have been intended to allude to the triumph of love over war.

Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1553) was one of the pioneers of German Renaissance painting and a contemporary of Albrecht Dürer. He became court painter to the electors of Saxony and most of his pictures, including that sold yesterday, are signed with a winged dragon that he adopted as his device.

The Princess Royal and Captain Timothy Laurence celebrated the 4th anniversary of their marriage today.

Birthdays today

Miss Tracy Austin, former tennis player, 36; Mr Lionel Blair, dancer and broadcaster, 65; Lord Boreham, 79; Major-General Sir Rupert Brazier-Creagh, 87; Mr Will Carling, rugby player, 31; Miss Denise Coffey, actress, director and writer, 60; Mr Jasper Conran, fashion designer, 37; Mr Kenneth Cranham, actor, 52; the Hon Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, MP, 66; Mr William Ebbett, former chairman and managing director, Vauxhall Motors, 54; Mr David Elsworth, racehorse trainer, 57; Mr Emerson Fitzpaul, racing driver, 50; Miss Connie Francis, singer, 58; Mr Roy Grantham, trade unionist, 70; Air Commodore Dame Felicity Hill, former director, WRAF, 81; Mr Cliff Holden, painter, 77; Dr Philip Ledger, Principal, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dramas, 59; Mr Chris Mullin, MP, 49; Mr Frank Sinatra, singer and actor, 81; the Right Rev Denis Walsingham, former Bishop of Southwell, 78; Miss Dionne Warwick, singer, 55.

Armourers and Brasiers

The Company of Armourers and Brasiers' 1996 Royal Armour Corps Troop Leaders' Prizes have been awarded to Second Lieutenant T.J. Bateman, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, T.A.C. Cape Life Guards, Royal Tank Regiment, and J.A.K. Walker, Queen's Royal Lancers.



The Judgement of Paris sold at Sotheby's is the artist's earliest version of the subject

Heritage facing 'deplorable' cuts

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL authority reorganisation next spring will lead to serious losses in our heritage, according to the Council for British Archaeology.

It says that the abolition of county archaeological posts, as funds are redirected to unitary authorities, will destroy investigative and scholarly resources built up over many years. This at a time when the ending of the recession is expected to result in a development boom.

The forthcoming damage is "deplorable," Professor Richard Morris, the council's director, says in its newsletter, *British Archaeology*. "Super-division of planning applications affecting archaeological sites, historic buildings and conservation areas will virtually ensure in some counties."

Among the worst-hit areas will be Bedfordshire, which today has an integrated heritage conservation service providing specialist advice, and a sites and monuments record built up over decades. Its budget will be cut by 43 per cent after the creation of the Luton unitary authority.

The amount of conservation and monitoring in the residual county remains the same, but the staff cuts will remove David Baker, the county archaeologist. "They will leave the group so short-staffed that only a small proportion of planning applications will be monitored," the council says.

Staffordshire faces a similar crisis, with a 50 per cent cut in

the archaeology budget as Stoke-on-Trent becomes autonomous. The staff will be reduced to two, one each for archaeology and historic buildings, and Ken Sheridan, the county archaeologist, will lose his job.

The problem has arisen because towns contribute much of a county's tax income while providing only a small part of the conservation workload. As unitary authorities claim their share of their former county's income, the residual counties are unable to cope with the load, which remains largely unchanged. Cuts are expected to reach 45 per cent in Dorset, 30 per cent in Wiltshire, and 27 per cent in Hampshire, three of the archaeologically richest counties in England. The Department of National Heritage has no power to direct authorities to make appointments, the council says, although it is asking the department to urge the counties to maintain adequate coverage.

According to Michael Coupe, head of planning at English Heritage, conservation was seen as marginal by the Local Government Commission. His advice during the review process "fell on deaf ears." Professor Morris said that "the language of misapplied accountability means the very opposite of what it says: far more cost-effective, less, for better value for money, less."

University news

Oxford

The following members of Jesus College have been awarded prizes for their Final Honour School: Alexander Beattie, Sarah Cox, Owenling Davis, Alison Foster, Chut-Ling Goh, Sue Halliwell, David Hildin, Daniel Hui, Susan Johnson, Rachel Kell, Natalie Kishner, James McManis, Ian Morgan, Glen O'Hara, Marjorie Pender, Jani Roberts, Ashish Sharma, Andrew Smith, Catherine Webster.

For First Class in Honour Moderations/Diplomas in Prelims: Juan Adams, Stephen Brown, David Jones, John Frost, Bernard Judd, Alan Gorn, Claire Gifford, Angus Halliwell, Emma Hill, Emma Ward, Alan Moss, James Norman, Benjamin Preston, Jessica Rose, Nicholas Scott, Andrew Tolley, Neil Walker.

For a First Class in the BCL: Bernard Foster, John Egan, for Distinction in Supplementary Subject: Quantum Chemistry: Christopher Adams, J.N.L. Baker, Prize in Geography awarded jointly to Stephanie Adams, Hilary Moor Khan, Bleckley Prize in Modern Languages: Vidyia Alakeson.

Prizes awarded jointly to: Sion O'Byrne, Patrick Malt, Paul O'Byrne, Hannah Salih, Alan Davies Prize in Biological Sciences: Lawrence Moon.

Davies Prize (for best performance in a Final Honour School): Susan Graham.

Deborah-Tate Prize in PPE: Adam Hodgson.

Prestigious Prize in Chemistry: Jeremy Burrows.

Anthony Fletcher Award: Adam Genter Prize in Classics: Claire Poulter.

Prizes awarded jointly to: Victoria Corby, David Fisher, Anne McConnell, Helen Gifford, David Gifford, Victoria Vasey, Robert Carroll, Julian Douglas, Zoe Duncan, Bernard Fildes, Michael Gifford, Lucy Penna, Hannah Salih, E.C. Hart, Amy Lunt, Owenllan Adams, Hilary Moor Khan.

Madison Prize in Modern Languages: Katy Hathaway.

Prizes awarded jointly to: Julian Douglas, Zoe Duncan, D.G. Ritchie Prize in PPE: Nicholas Adams, David Vasey, Junior Vaughan Prize in Mathematics: David Hickin, Mathematics Prize in Law: David Wilson.

C.F. Williamson Prize in English Literature: David Gifford, McConnell, Charalambos, Woodhouse and Prizes in Chemistry: Alison Foster, Stephen Conway, Joanna Hillier.

Memorial service

Brigadier Malcolm Denton

A memorial service for Brigadier Malcolm Gray Denton was held yesterday in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street. The Rev Simon Hobbs, the Rev Colin McLean and the Rev Tony Hines officiated.

Mr Morison Johnston and Mr Denis Cornwell read the lessons. Mr John Shipman read from the works of T.E. Lawrence and Mr Hugh Leach read *High Flight* by Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee. Mr St John Arncliffe paid tribute. Among others present were: Mr Hussain Ibrahim (representing the Embassy of Oman), the Hon Ivor Lucas and Sir Donald Hawley (vice-presidents, Anglo Oriental Society), Colonel Nigel Knoch (chairman, Sultan's Armed Forces Association) with Major-General Kenneth Perkins (vice-president), Brigadier J.T.W. London and many other friends.

Schools news

The Council of Abbotsholme have pleasure in announcing the appointment of Mr Martin Allison to succeed Mr Darrell Farrar as Headmaster in September 1997, on Mr Farrar's retirement after 13 years' distinguished service. Mr Allison is presently Director of Studies, Head of English and Director of Drama at Lord Wandsworth College, Hampshire.

The King's School, Canterbury The eighth Calvin & Rose G. Hoffman Prize for Distinguished Publication on Christopher Marlowe has been awarded to Dr Ruth Lumley, of NSW, Australia. Entries for the ninth prize should be submitted to the Headmaster by September 1, 1997. Further details may be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary, The King's School, Canterbury CT1 2ES.

Dinners

British Medical Ultrasound Society

The annual dinner of the British Medical Ultrasound Society was held last night at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh. Dr Henry Irving, President of the Society, proposed the toast to the guests, and Professor Luigi Bolondi, President of the European Federation of Societies of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, also spoke.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Jenkin of Roding, a Vice-President of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. Professor Peter Hall, Professor Duncan MacLennan and Mr Rodney A.R. Green were the speakers.

Ball

British-American-Canadian

The Princess Margaret attended the 44th British-American-Canadian Ball held last night at Grosvenor House. The Hon Sir Peter Ramsbottom, GCMG, GCVO, President, presided. The Chairman of the Ball was Mrs Gerald McNeil Halford. Among those present were:

The Canadian High Commissioner and Mrs MacLennan, Sir Anthony Acland, GCMG, GCVO, and Lady Acland, Rear Admiral Sir B. Hill III, USN, and Mrs Hill, Mr and Mrs Jacques Bilodeau, Mr and Mrs Robert A. Braden, Sir Paul and Lady Newall, Mr and Mrs Michael O'Brien, the Hon Lady Ramsbottom and Mr and Mrs Robert M. Worcester.

Induction

Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Sir Ralph Robins, Chairman of Rolls-Royce plc, was inducted as an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, (ImechE) at an Ordinary Meeting last night. During the meeting Professor Sir Kenneth delivery of the 84th Thomas Hawksley Memorial Lecture, "Adhesives in Engineering". The President of ImechE, Professor Ernest Shanmugan, was in the chair.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.P. Brice and Miss P.C. Munn

The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Richard Brice, of Fletchersbridge, Cornwall, and Philippa (Pippa), daughter of Professor and Mrs Robert Munn, of Bramhall, Cheshire.

Mr S.C. de Chair and Miss L.J.A. Benjamin

The engagement is announced between Carlo, son of the late Somerset de Chair, formerly of St Oyn's, Essex, and Laura, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Benjamin, of South Street, London.

Mr J.T. Coles and Miss T.C.M. Stobbs

The engagement is announced between Joe, son of Mr and Mrs Walter Coles, of Wandsworth, London, and Tanya, daughter of the late Simon Stobbs, of Kenya, and of Mrs Primrose Stobbs, of Chelsea, London.

Mr B.G.R. Kellert and Miss C.P. McGrath

The engagement is announced between Benjamin, second son of Mr and Mrs R.R. Kellert, of Staines, Middlesex, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. McGrath, of Grafton, West Sussex.

Mr R.S.J. Pembroke and Miss C.N. Cranston

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Pembroke, of Upton, Hampshire, and Charlotte, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs David Cranston, of Durrington, Wiltshire.

Marriages

Mr K. Bhattacharya and Miss S. Mukherjee

The marriage took place between Kaushik, son of Mr and Mrs S.N. Bhattacharya, and Sumita, daughter of Dr and Mrs S.K. Mukherjee, in Calcutta, yesterday.

Mr W.D. Davis and Miss S.A. Myers

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 7, of Mr William Davis, son of Mr and Mrs Philip Davis, and Miss Sophie Myers, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Myers. The Rev Paul Nicholson officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Candida Woodbridge. Mr Robert Kinsey was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr J.A. Taber and Miss P. Hennessy

The marriage took place on Tuesday, December 3, 1996, at The Old Town Hall, Chelsea, of Joseph Alexander Taber, son of Patricia Hennessy. The reception was held at The Cadogan.

Receptions

British Library of Political and Economic Science

Lord Dainton was the host at a reception given by the British Library of Political and Economic Science last night at Goldsmiths' Hall to mark the library's centenary. Professor Leslie Hannah, Acting Director of the LSE, gave an address.

Strathclyde University

Professor Gerard Hastings, Head of the Department of Marketing, Strathclyde University, was the host at a reception held at the university yesterday to mark the department's silver jubilee. During the reception the department presented the university with a frame holding Letters Patent from the Court of Lord Lyon. This year is the bicentenary of the university which was granted a Full Achievement of Arms as part of its celebrations. Professor Tom R. Bone, Deputy Principal, accepted the gift on behalf of the university. Her Majesty's Ross Herald of Arms was the guest of honour and proclaimed the Letters Patent.

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God chose you to find salvation in the Spirit who comes to you in the truth - you. Theological 2: 13

BIRTHS

BEARD - On 1st December 1996, to Sally (née Conner) and Nicholas, a son, Edward George Beard.

BROWN - On 17th November 1996, to Lucy (née Maynard) and Isaac, a son, Matthew Isaac Brown.

BURN - On December 4th 1996, to Helen (née Cox) and Nicholas, a son, Fergus James Burn.

GODFREY-VAUGHAN - On December 5th, to Wendy (née King) and Peter, a daughter, Megan Louise Godfrey-Vaughan.

HILLIER - On December 10th at the Portland Hospital, to Martha and William, a son, George.

LACE - On 2nd December 1996, to Chloe and Peter, a daughter, a beautiful daughter, Sophie Emma Lacey.

MACINTOSH - On December 10th, to Claire and Peter, a daughter, a beautiful son, Benjamin Anthony Macintosh.

MAVER - On December 4th, to Pippa and Philip, a son, Eddy James Maver.

READING-THOMSON - Nicky and Mark are delighted to announce the birth of Benjamin on Monday 9th December 1996. Mother and son are both happy and extremely well.

WICK - To Matthew and Emily, a daughter, Margaret Sarah, 10th December 1996.

DEATHS

BEARD - On 5th December 1996, at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to David Beard, 74, son of Charles and Charlotte, a daughter, Charlotte, died peacefully on 5th December 1996, aged 93, at the Grange Nursing Home, Shepperton. Mr Beard was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, and his daughter, Charlotte. A funeral service will be held at St Mary's Church, Old Basing, on Wednesday 18th December at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Alexander & Dry, Hastings 044663.

CONWAY - At Rose Hall Hospital, Glasgow, on 10th December 1996, Robert (Bob) (néthel) son of C.K. and M. of Member of Royal Golf Club, beloved husband of Margaret.

ELIAS - Michael Elias, 65, died peacefully at home on Friday December 20th at 11.30 am. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. A funeral service will be held at St Mary's Church, Old Basing, on Wednesday 18th December at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Alexander & Dry, Hastings 044663.

FINLAY - On 10th December 1996, peacefully at home, after a long illness, Mrs. Finlay, 74, wife of David and formerly of Robert, died peacefully at home on Friday December 20th at 11.30 am. She was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. A funeral service will be held at St Mary's Church, Old Basing, on Wednesday 18th December at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Alexander & Dry, Hastings 044663.

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FINLAY - On 10th December 1996, peacefully at home, after a long illness, Mrs. Finlay, 74

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY DECEMBER 12 1996

Shell to invest \$10bn in Mexican gulf

FROM CARL MORTIMER IN NEW ORLEANS

SHELL OIL is planning to invest up to \$10 billion over the next four years in deep-water oil production in the Gulf of Mexico.

The US subsidiary of the Anglo-Dutch oil company has more than eight undisclosed projects in preparation that are aimed at achieving a rapid build-up in oil production over the four-year period.

Shell Oil is the largest leaseholder in water depth beyond 15,000 feet in the Gulf of Mexico, and owns more than 20 per cent of the total acreage. It also accounts for half of the developments now in progress.

Shell estimates that by 2001, oil and gas production from deep-water wells in the Gulf of Mexico will equal its current annual production of between 250 million and 300 million barrels.

The ambitious investment programme for the Gulf of Mexico marks a major turnaround for the US subsidiary, which was in financial difficulties in 1992, and in the throes of a massive redundancy programme.

However, record-breaking successes in deep-water exploration encouraged Shell to raise its investment and the company now faces cash shortages.

Wall Street dives but base rate protects London

BY JANET BURL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WALL STREET was struck by another bout of jittery trading yesterday, and dragged down other markets in its wake. However, losses in London were limited because UK base rates seem to have been left on hold for the time being.

In early afternoon trading in New York, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was more than 100 points lower. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond was down by more than a full percentage point, boosting its yield to 6.59 per cent from 6.49 per cent on Tuesday. The dollar dropped to DM1.5365 from DM1.5300 on Tuesday.

The sudden loss of confidence marked another session in Wall Street's nervous reaction to last week's warnings by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, about irrational market exuberance.

The latest fall was prompted partly by concern that Japanese investors may become less enthusiastic buyers of US assets. There were also rumours that IBM might issue a profits warning, but the company denied that it planned a statement.

The general air of nervousness also hit the London market but losses were not dramatic. At one point, the FT-SE 100 index fell more than 70 points but it rallied somewhat to finish the day 53.2 points lower at 3,982.5.

After yesterday's monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, the Bank twice dealt in the money markets at unchanged interest rates.

Mr George said in a speech in November that the Bank would normally signal a rate change on the next occasion it dealt in the markets after a monetary meeting, unless there was a "wholly overwhelming reason for delay".

London markets are now focussed on today's retail price figures, which the Bank and Treasury would have had sight of yesterday.

In America, the latest figures showed that US producer price inflation remains subdued, with core producer prices rising only 0.1 per cent in November.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Pennington, page 27

Heron heralds £1bn investment

BY JASON NISSE

HERON, the property group run by Gerald Ronson, is to buy a landmark building in London and develop a chain of multiplex cinemas in Spain as part of a massive investment in property which could see the group spending up to £1 billion.

Heron was rescued from collapse in 1995 by a £142 million cash injection from a group of US-based investors including Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, the ultimate owner of The Times.

Yesterday Heron said it was spending £100 million buying two office buildings in central London and redeveloping two buildings in Spain.

A spokesman for the company said this was the first of many transactions for Heron. "We are not constrained by our balance sheet, our investors are clear in their backing," she said. "There is not a transaction that could be described as too big."

The first of the deals is due to be announced in the new year, being the purchase of a "landmark commercial building" in London. This is expected to be followed by a joint venture to develop a chain of multiplex cinemas in Spain, probably with a US group.

Heron is also looking at the purchase of some other property companies. The focus of its investments will be in the UK, Spain and France.

Heron has about £100 million net cash, making up about half its net assets. The deal with the US investors gave them 80 per cent of the group. Mr Ronson and his long-time partner, Alan Goldman, have options over 11 per cent of the company that can be exercised in two years' time.

Pennington, page 27



David Crossland saw profits 46 per cent up and said he had £250 million to buy abroad

DTI seeks ban on Team Lotus five

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has started disqualification proceedings against five former directors of Team Lotus, the Formula One racing team that failed two years ago.

Peter Hall, chairman of Industrial Control Services (ICS), the controls group, is among those named in the proceedings. Mr Hall was a non-executive director of Team Lotus, which went into administration in September 1994. The company is not connected with Group Lotus, the sports car manufacturer.

The Team Lotus assets were sold to David Hunt, who hopes to bring the Lotus name back to the grand prix circuit. Mr Hunt, brother of the late James Hunt, said: "We put everything into a new company. We're taking it back to a clean sheet of paper."

The DTI is seeking to disqualify four other former Team Lotus directors: Peter Collins, James McDougall, Peter Wright and Alan Curtis. No date has yet been fixed for an initial hearing. Mr Hall was not available yesterday, but ICS issued a statement saying he would defend the action vigorously. He has the full support of the ICS board.

Documents lodged at Companies House show Team Lotus, now renamed TLL Realisations Ltd, was in deepening trouble in the years leading up to the collapse. Pre-tax losses rose from £2.2 million to £4.9 million in the year to November 1992 — the last period in which accounts were filed.



Ronson: two-year options

Ordnance Survey sues AA over maps

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE Automobile Association (AA) has fallen out spectacularly with Ordnance Survey, the government-owned mapping agency, in a move that could force the destruction of thousands of AA maps.

The agency is suing the AA for alleged breach of copyright. It is seeking an injunction over the AA's use of its material, together with unspecified damages and the "forfeiture or destruction" of maps, drawings and artwork.

The AA has 14 days to respond to the action, outlined in a writ lodged at the High Court. The dispute is embarrassing, given the long-standing collaboration between the parties, which publish guides under their joint names.

The agency, says Peter Johnson, AA's managing director, has admitted to using unlicensed material in relation to 50 AA town maps. The admissions were allegedly contained in two letters to David Rhind, the agency's director general and chief executive. The action refers to the AA Road Atlas, individual AA maps and Thomson Local maps, which the AA produces.

Ordnance Survey issued a statement yesterday, saying "The AA has admitted that some 50 of its unlicensed town maps are, in fact, derived from Crown Copyright material. However, Ordnance Survey does not accept that this is the extent of the infringement and feels that it has been left with no choice other than to commence proceedings against the AA."

The AA said it was "very surprised" at the action. It had been entirely open about any "mistakes" that might have been made, and added: "Clearly, if there are any duties due to the Ordnance Survey, there's no question that any royalties will be paid."

Airtours gears up for travel inquiry

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

AIRTOURS has set aside £1 million and three full-time members of staff to handle the Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into the UK travel industry, it emerged yesterday.

However, David Crossland, chairman and chief executive of Airtours, insisted that there was no case to answer, and said that the bulk of the costs would be fees charged by lawyers and economic advisers.

Airtours, the UK's second largest tour operator, and Thomson, the market leader, are the subject of an MMC inquiry after the Office of Fair Trading last month asked the commission to investigate alleged anti-competitive practices.

Unveiling a better than expected increase in group pre-tax profits for the full year of 46 per cent to £86.8 million compared with £59.4 million, Mr Crossland said that he had £250 million to spend and hoped to make further acquisitions overseas.

The group already owns travel companies in Scandinavia and Canada, runs a UK charter airline and high street travel agency, and is about to add a third cruise ship to its successful fly-cruise programme.

The results included record profits from Scandinavia of £34.5 million (£25.1 million). Airtours is building its own timeshare complexes in Orlando, Florida, and aims to introduce long-haul travel to the Scandinavian market.

A combination of cutting capacity in the UK package market and raising holiday prices meant that margins for summer 1996 were significantly higher.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	3982.5	(-53.2)
Yield	4.0%	
FTSE All share	1951.14	(-23.48)
Nikkei	20568.38	(-253.74)
New York		
Dow Jones	6288.20	(-104.55)*
S&P Composite	735.84	(-11.70)*
US 484TIF		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	88 1/4%	(100%)
Yield	8.58%	(8.48%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	112.85	(9 1/4%)
Libor 6m	109 1/2	(11 1/2%)
Future (Mar)		
STERLING		
New York	1.5365*	(1.5340)
London	1.5367	(1.5317)
DM	2.5518	(2.5565)
FF	8.3350	(8.3814)
Yen	166.25	(167.21)
S Index	88.9	(88.2)
US \$ 5000		
London	1.5367*	(1.5340)
DM	2.5518	(2.5565)
FF	8.3350	(8.3814)
Yen	166.25	(167.21)
S Index	88.9	(88.2)
Tokyo close Yen	112.85	
MONTHLY RATES		
12-month	822.08	(822.08)
Brent 15-day (Feb)	822.08	(822.08)
FUTURES		
London close	822.08	(822.08)
* denotes midday trading price		

On the road

NFC, the transport group, reported a 39 per cent rise in profits but is still struggling to turn round its continental European operations. NFC lost £9.5 million on the Continent. *Times* 28, Page 30

Pounding

David S Smith, the paper and packaging company, warned the markets that the strength of the pound was likely to cause second-half earnings to fall below first-half levels. *Page 27*

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British Coal sells help unit

British Coal's help facility for new businesses starting in coalfield areas hit by job losses was yesterday sold for about £20 million.

British Coal Enterprise gave workspace to foster job creation to new and growing businesses on terms that did not demand long-term commitment. British Coal estimates that the scheme helped to create 130,000 job opportunities.

BT agrees new rates

Orange and One-2-One, the mobile phone companies, stand to increase their revenues substantially after reaching tentative agreements with British Telecom to collect higher interconnection charges.

Starting in February, BT will pay about 17.5p a minute, excluding VAT, to complete calls on the two companies' networks during peak times. The previous rate was only 7.5p a minute. The payments for evening calls will more than double to 12p, while weekend call payments stay roughly the same at 5p. The increased payments will mean higher bills for BT customers calling Orange or One-2-One phones.

Soccer floats

Southampton Football Club's £10.1 million stock market flotation will take place via a reverse takeover by Secure Retirement, a property development group (Business News, December 11) in January. The flotation of Sunderland Football Club will take place later this month. There is a minimum subscription of 100 shares at 585p each. The club will be valued at £48 million. Terms of the separate flotations were inadvertently transposed and we apologise for the error.

Europe not competing to full potential, say industry chiefs

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

EUROPE'S competitive performance is running at "below its full potential", according to a European Commission report prepared for tomorrow's EU heads of government summit in Dublin.

But the study, prepared for Jacques Santer, the EC President, by the EC's competitiveness advisory group, also suggests that emerging countries are increasingly incapable of competing on the basis of low wages, and they en-

dorse a clear link — opposed by Britain — between trade and minimum employment standards.

The competitiveness advisory group, a team of 12 industrialists set up by M. Santer last year to produce practical recommendations to improve Europe's competitiveness, says in its final report that while Europe is well placed to take advantage of global business integration, "Europe's performance has been below its full potential, particularly in recent years."

The report says Europe has been losing market share in the world export league. In 1995, the group's fourth competitiveness report says, EU member states accounted for 19.4 per cent of total world exports, compared with 21.1 per cent in 1990. At the same time, while the US's proportion also fell back, from 16.4 per cent to 15.4 per cent, Japan's share held steady at 12 per cent.

The study group, headed by Percy Barnevik, chairman and chief executive of ABB Asea Brown Boveri, says that Europe's competitive advantage

has shifted from high-technology sectors, with the exception of the UK, which was the only EU country in the 1980s to strengthen its comparative advantage in this area.

The report also suggests that "emerging markets progressively compete less and less on low wages", since increasing global trade and investment integration in such countries is associated with "extremely rapid" growth in wage levels. Manufacturing wages in South Korea, for instance, are now 43 per cent of their US counterparts, com-

pared with 9.5 per cent only ten years ago.

Sir David Simon, BP chairman and the UK's business representative in the group, says that while Europe is doing relatively well, it could do better. But he says that Europe is increasingly adopting the UK's practices in improving its competitiveness. Sir David said: "My own judgment is that Europe has become more understanding of the type of flexibility and innovation that is necessary to capture overseas markets and that Britain has been working towards."



Michael Jeffries, left, and Rick Piper, financial director, have seen the Atkins order book swell to £180 million.

Staff share in Atkins success

By FRANK NELSON

MORE than 2,500 employees of WS Atkins have made thousands of pounds since the engineering consultancy floated five months ago. On top of paper profits of £26,700 a head, on average they stand to pick up dividend payments of £1,340 a year.

Staff own about 55 per cent

of the shares, which have soared from 215p to 350p since flotation. Yesterday the company declared a 2.25p dividend to be paid on January 7, worth £495 to the average employee shareholder. With the final payout normally double the interim, employees can expect a further £890.

Michael Jeffries, chief executive, said: "We have always encouraged our employees to take a stake in the company, and I'm delighted that they can share in the success."

Atkins decided to raise the dividend after a stream of new orders in the six months to September 30 left its order books at £180 million — more than its entire turnover for the period. Costs of joining the stock market in July were £15

million, leaving pre-tax profits slightly behind last time at £9.35 million (£9.59 million) on sales 50 per cent stronger at £153 million (£105 million). Earnings were 7p (5.8p).

Mr Jeffries said the company is now looking to spend around £35 million on an acquisition and is already in talks with a number of potential targets.

BBC calls for BSkyB to share technology

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE introduction of digital television in Britain could be delayed for years if the Government allows BSkyB, the satellite TV company, to establish a monopoly over digital technology, the BBC said yesterday.

In a written response to the Department of Trade and Industry draft guidelines on digital TV, the corporation called on the Government to oblige BSkyB to license its proprietary digital decoder technology and standards to other broadcasters. BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times.

Patricia Hodgson, director of policy and planning at the BBC, said digital TV was most likely to succeed if consumers had to buy a single set-top decoder used by all broadcasters. If TV companies were forced to set up digital delivery systems in competition with BSkyB, the risks would be greater and the launch of a wide range of digital TV services would be put back.

While sharing the BBC's concerns about BSkyB's potential dominance, the ITV companies, like many in the industry, do not believe that the kind of mandatory licensing proposed by the BBC is a realistic option. They believe that market forces will ensure the emergence of a single set-top box standard.

BSkyB has expressed concern that current guidelines, obliging set-top box operators to give fair, non-discriminatory access for other service providers, are already among the toughest in the world.

ITV and BSkyB will give evidence to the Heritage Select Committee's inquiry into the future of broadcasting today.

Digital TV on pause, page 29

Premiership clubs pursue money goals

By JASON NISSE

MANCHESTER UNITED and Chelsea Village, respective owners of the Premiership clubs, yesterday used the market buoyancy in football shares to raise funds to help to pay for redevelopment.

Merrill Lynch, United's stockbrokers, placed 3 million shares at 585p to bring in £17.5 million, which will be used for the completion of the north stand at Old Trafford and the purchase of land for a new training complex. In addition, Amer Al Midani, one of United's directors, sold 600,000 shares at 585p, cutting his holding to 1.1 per cent of the group. United shares rose 6p to 584p on the news.

David Beswitherick, United's financial controller, said the strength of the share price meant it was "difficult" not to raise money from the market to cover capital expenditure so that borrowing facilities could be kept to buy players.

Chelsea raised a more modest £25,000 through a share placing at 110p, the first stage of raising the £10 million required to rebuild the south stand at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea is expected to need between £30 million and £50 million for redevelopment in the next three years.

Pennington, page 27

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Rate	Bank Rate
Australia \$	2.19	9.03
Austria S	10.54	17.44
Belgium Fr	86.57	51.27
Canada C	2.367	2.197
Cyprus Cyp	0.005	0.005
Denmark Kr	10.34	8.54
Finland Mk	8.21	7.58
France Fr	9.04	8.30
Germany Dm	2.70	2.40
Greece Dr	450	395
Hong Kong \$	12.42	12.42
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Ir	2.52	2.50
Israel Sh	1.05	0.57
Japan Yen	200.80	169.80
Italy Lit	2020	2478
Malta	0.656	0.581
Netherlands Gld	3.012	2.782
New Zealand \$	2.52	2.50
Norway Kr	11.20	10.40
Portugal Esc	200.50	251.00
S Africa Rd	0.050	0.050
Spain Ptas	202.90	200.00
Sweden Kr	11.88	11.08
Switzerland Fr	2.21	2.13
Taiwan Nts	100.00	100.00
USA \$	1.752	1.622

For the small communication bank rates only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to inward remittances. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Halifax job changes ahead of flotation

HALIFAX Building Society has appointed a deputy chief executive as part of a reshuffle before its planned flotation. Glyn Folwell, managing director since the merger with the Leeds, will focus on long-term strategy and risk management in his new role. The move will allow Mike Blackburn, chief executive, to foster relations with institutional investors.

Halifax also announced five new directors to cover mortgages, liquid credit, retail banking and consumer credit. General insurance, long-term savings and protection and treasury. Only two, finance director Roger Boyes, who takes on treasury, and John Miller, new housing and technology director, worked for Leeds. Julie Ashison, former head of product and marketing at Leeds, is to leave in February after John Lee's appointment as personnel and services director. Banking and savings goes to Mike Ellis, while financial services director James Crosby adds insurance to his role.

Aon expects charge

AON CORPORATION has said it expects to take a charge against earnings of about \$100 million in the 1997 first quarter after its \$1.23 billion purchase of Alexander & Alexander Services. The deal, which was announced yesterday, follows Aon Corporation's purchase of Bain Hogg, the UK broker, for £160 million from Inchcape in October. It will create a huge insurance broker, employing almost 40,000 people. Aon said there would be some redundancies.

Faure chooses Gwent

BERTRAND FAURE, the French company that is one of the world's largest makers of car seats, is investing £12 million on a new factory at Tredegar, Gwent, that will create 300 jobs. Robin Lewis, the Welsh Development Agency's deputy chairman, said: "This investment will strengthen Wales's growing automotive components sector." The Welsh automotive industry comprises around 200 companies, employing over 20,000 people and generating revenue worth £1.7 billion.

Kingfisher sells stakes

KINGFISHER, the UK retailing group that owns Woolworths, is to sell its 50 per cent stake in Staples UK, the office products supplier, to Staples Inc, its American joint venture partner, for £23.5 million. The company is also selling its 40 per cent stake in Maxi-Papier, which trades from 16 stores in Germany, for DM16.6 million to Staples. Kingfisher, which also owns B&Q and Superdrug, said both companies being sold incurred losses in the year to February 3.

IMS plans to raise £5m

IMS GROUP, the telephone services company that specialises in sports news, plans to raise about £5 million by floating in late January. The sale should value the company at about £40 million, said Bill Wilson, the IMS chairman who was part of a management team that bought the company from William Hill Leisure for £13.7 million in 1992. IMS, which had operating profits of £3.3 million on turnover of £12.4 million last year, will use the flotation money to fund acquisitions.

Shaftesbury share issue

SHAFTESBURY, the property company that recently agreed to buy much of Carnaby Street in central London, yesterday announced a £36.5 million share issue to help to finance the £90 million deal. The company, which owns the Chinatown estate in the West End, is raising the money through a three-for-eight rights issue priced at 137p a share. Shaftesbury announced a 5.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.9 million for the year to September 30. A final dividend of 1.25p makes a total of 2p (1.5p).

First Technology ahead

THE popularity of dashboard airbags boosted profits at First Technology, the car safety group that commands 80 per cent of the world market for crash-test dummies. In the six months to October 31, pre-tax profits were 28 per cent ahead at £4.2 million. Earnings were 17.2p per share (13.5p). The company says its order book is at record levels and could improve further if US car manufacturers switch to low-power airbags. The interim dividend, due on March 3, is raised to 4.2p (3.2p).

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The Financial Times 7/10/96 (from MORI survey)



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□ Property pursuit prompts a question □ Tour operators' tactics pay off □ No justification for stock market gyrations

Ronson's rebound gathers pace

SIR John Quinton, then chairman of Barclays, now chairman of football's Premier League, described him as the finest businessman of our generation. Mr Justice Henry, the judge in the Guinness trial, was less complimentary when he imprisoned him for his role in the secret share support operation during Guinness's bid for Distillers. But love him or hate him, there is no doubting Gerald Ronson's survival instincts and his ability to bounce back.

Mr Ronson's property group, Heron, was saved from a spectacular crash by a massive restructuring, costing £70 million in fees, and a rescue by American investors led by Steven Green, the leveraged buyout specialist. Now, after licking his wounds for a couple of years and selling some of his prize possessions, Mr Ronson is back in a big way. "No deal is too big," he says. "You don't know whether to cheer or run for the hills."

As before, Heron is planning a three-pronged attack. And, as before, two of those prongs are in the UK and Spain. However, the third is not America, where Heron came spectacularly to grief in the Arizona desert, but France, where it has attempted to buy properties from the approximately named insurance group MACIF.

On the shopping list are a

trophy building in London, leisure developments in Spain and a few property companies, some of which might even be quoted (watch out Greycoat). Rumours that he tried to buy Canary Wharf for upwards of £700 million, rubbished a few months ago, are now being said to be true. The US investors say they have deep pockets, and the banks, which have found a renewed desire to put up money for property development, are willing to sign cheques.

For those who have lived through a couple of property crashes, it all seems achingly familiar. But the interesting question is what point have we reached? If Mr Ronson is right, we could be at a relatively early point in the upswing and a quite healthy boom is in prospect.

He has his supporters in the market place. The likes of Burford, headed by Nigel Wray and Nick Leslan, and Chelsfield, run by the suave well-connected Elliott Bernard, are snapping up all sorts of development opportunities. Shopping centres and leisure developments have been all the rage and institu-

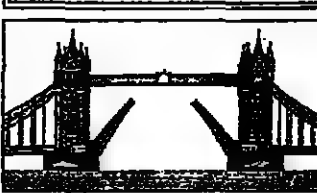
tional investors, sensing the equity market could be on the turn, like the prospect of investing in property in an environment showing low interest rates and gradual economic recovery. Admittedly we have not seen the property traders return yet, but give them time.

And even the prospect of a Labour government does not seem to be putting these guys off. Most of the investment earmarked by Heron will occur after a general election, presumably under Tony Blair's first administration. A property boom under Labour? Stranger things have happened.

The price of market share

ONLY three years ago UK tour operators were hell-bent on increasing their market share. In the pursuit of sales volumes they slashed prices, undercut rivals and discounted deeply. Thomson, the market leader, began each season saying it would not be beaten on price and would not concede market share.

PENNINGTON



The culmination of all this competitive activity was the disastrous trading year of 1995, the worst in the industry for a decade. Operators found themselves with three million unsold holidays to shift. Profits plunged and operators, sadder and wiser, vowed in future to try to match supply with demand.

The three biggest players, Thomson, Airtours and First Choice, cut capacity and raised prices in an attempt to sell packages at the end of the 1996 season as close as possible to full price. For Airtours, unveiling a 46 per cent increase in pre-tax profit yesterday, the tactic appears to have paid off. David Crossland, chairman, declared he was content with a market

share of 20 per cent of the £7 billion UK holiday industry and had no wish to expand it further. Instead he was looking overseas.

Meanwhile, Thomson has been unofficially put up for sale by its Canadian parent, The Thomson Corporation. In such circumstances it has a vested interest in demonstrating a steady profit stream to potential suitors, rather than a roller-coaster ride of soaring market share and falling yields.

Tour operators' margins — at best a mere 6 per cent — are slim compared with some other sectors. Having increased them this year, Airtours is loathe to watch them fall again. The combination of higher holiday prices and forecasts of increased consumer spending mean the prospects for earnings growth now look their best for several years.

However, it will be a year before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reaches a decision on whether the industry's practices are anti-competitive.

In the meantime, Mr Crossland has seen evidence of consumers "trading up" from

modest Spanish holidays to long-haul destinations. Guess where building society windfalls are being spent?

Wall Street wobbles

THE odd 100-point rise or fall in the Dow Jones industrial average really is not a big deal when the index is trading in the heavy environs of 6,000 points, however cavalier that assertion may seem to nervous investors. Extravagant comment on yesterday's gyrations on Wall Street should be treated with more caution than usual for there really was no new reason for the latest wobble in confidence.

The justifications rolled out for another bout of profit-taking included so far unsubstantiated rumours that IBM was about to issue a profit warning and musings in *The Wall Street Journal's* widely-read *Heard on the Street* (or *Heard over Lunch*) column that Japanese investors may stop buying US Treasury bonds in such great volumes. IBM's welfare still has an almost

religious significance in New York, but this seemed to be just the kind of rumour that surfaces when a canny player wants to see the market drop. As for warnings about Japanese appetite for US bonds, the executive at Goldman Sachs to whom they were attributed yesterday played down their import.

There was also concern about this week's rather dismal US trade figures and nervousness about yesterday's producer prices figures — which turned out to be as benign as ever. But yesterday's jitters were really a tiny aftershock to Alan Greenspan's remarks about irrational market exuberance last week, and the nerves also reflect an understandable desire not to ruin an excellent year for investment in stocks right at the last minute. Next year is another matter.

The good old days

CHELSEA VILLAGE, the owner of the eponymous football club, is issuing £22,000 worth of shares to its stockbroking adviser, the well-known firm of Ellis & Partners, of Crawley in Sussex, in lieu of fees on a share placing. The move is described as a return to the way things were done in the 1970s. For Chelsea the 1970s was an era of drunken players, hooligan fans and near bankruptcy. Good times?

David S Smith fears impact of sterling

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

DAVID S SMITH, the paper and packaging company, gave warning yesterday that the strength of the pound was likely to cause second-half earnings to slip below first-half levels.

Peter Williams, chief executive, said the high level of sterling was making the UK a more attractive market for European exporters — many of which still have excess capacity. He added that trading conditions throughout Europe were likely to remain difficult with the economies only gently showing signs of recovery.

Mr Williams's comments came after David S Smith announced flat half-year profits of £38.6 million. Turnover also remained static at £615 million. Shares of the company fell 10½p to 296p as analysts slightly downgraded full-year profit predictions after the warning.

The group's operating profit margin slipped from 10.8 per cent to 10.2 per cent. Turnover in the packaging division fell 4

per cent to £420 million, after a fall in pricing levels, while profits fell 6 per cent to £52 million. The company said that the French market was especially weak with volumes in corrugated paper falling 2 per cent in the first ten months of 1996, and the paperboard market flat.

The company added that new waste paper regulations, which are expected to come into effect next year, will have a positive impact on the UK waste paper collection industry. The office products division increased turnover 10 per cent to £196 million, while profits rose slightly from £10.5 million to £10.7 million. The company said John Dickinson, which was acquired for £17 million in August, made a small loss in line with expectations.

Gearing was reduced to 23 per cent from 27 per cent at the last year end. The interim dividend rises 6 per cent to 2.6p, payable on March 10.

Times, page 28

Greene King to shed jobs

ABOUT 130 jobs are to be lost in the reorganisation of the brewing division of Greene King, it was announced yesterday (Alasdair Murray writes).

The restructuring will give rise to exceptional charges of £14 million, mainly relating to the closure or sale of the company's breweries in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. Greene King expects to make a number of non-core disposals in the next year, raising about £20 million to reduce borrowings, which total £176 million after the £197 million acquisition of the Magic Pub chain.

The Magic Pub chain helped to boost half-year profits, before tax and exceptional, by 38 per cent to £15.2 million.

The company added that its retail division had created 300 jobs in 1996 and it is confident of expanding at similar rate next year.

The interim dividend was increased 12 per cent to 4.75p, payable on February 3.

Bulmers in seasonal sales push

HP BULMER, the cider company, is launching its biggest Christmas marketing blitz (Alasdair Murray writes).

Bulmer intends to spend £400,000 on promoting White Lightning, its newly acquired white cider, as well as its other brands, which include Strongbow and Woodpecker. The company yesterday unveiled an 8 per cent increase in half-year profits before tax and exceptional items to £17.4 million. Overall turnover increased 19 per cent to £163 million. There was a slight decrease in like-for-like group margins to 12.5 per cent because of increased marketing expenditure.

Exceptional costs totalled £700,000, mainly relating to redundancies and restructuring at Inch's.

John Rudgwick, chief executive, said Bulmers planned to implement an average 5 per cent price increase on its ciders early next year.

The interim dividend was raised 7.7 per cent to 4.9p a share, payable on February 17.

Ofwat approves Dee Valley's takeover plan

OFWAT, the water industry regulator, has given its approval to Dee Valley Water's proposed £20.3 million takeover of the neighbouring Chester Water (Christine Buckley writes).

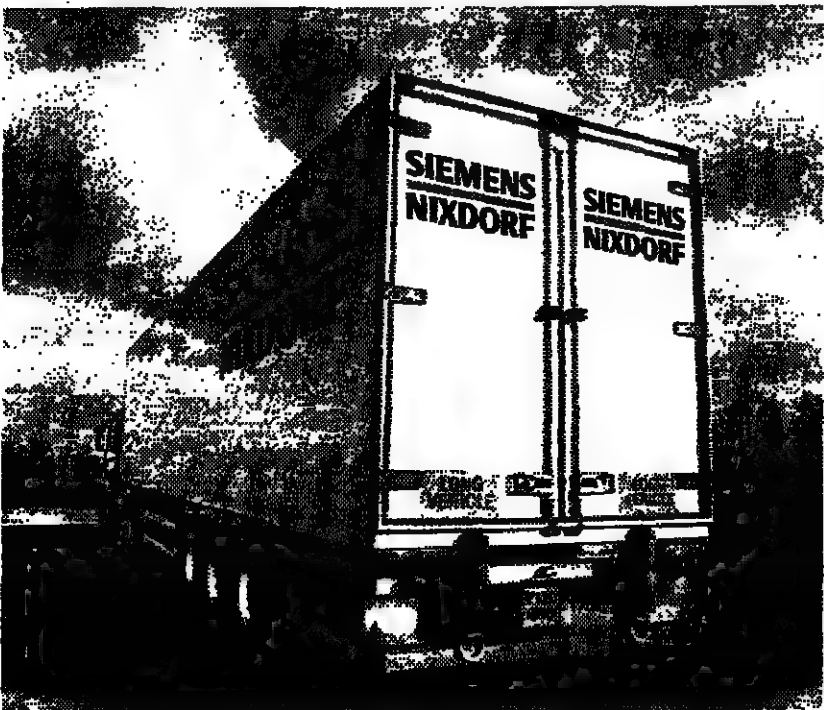
The companies and the regulator have agreed that bills are to be reduced by 3.5 per cent over the existing price cap from April 2001. At present customers of Wrexham Water, which is owned by Dee Valley, pay an average £130, while Chester Water users pay £106. Moves to harmonise the bills are likely, though Chester

Water customers will expect to see some savings.

With assets of less than £30 million, both companies are small enough to escape automatic referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The merger proposal comes as the industry awaits the decision by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, on the proposed bid by two French companies for Mid Kent. Meanwhile, Cambridge Water has announced plans for a £4 million buyback of 10 per cent of its shares.

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STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

Wall Street's worries put London on the defensive

ALMOST £11 billion was wiped of British shares yesterday as a renewed bout of American inspired worries hit confidence. The FT-SE 100 fell back through the key 4,000 level ahead of an expected sell-off on the Dow Jones and at its lowest was down by 72 points.

Despite the Dow's sharp fall London shares steadied in afternoon trading and clawed back some ground to close at 3,982.5, a fall of 53.2 points.

Yesterday's slide on Wall Street was seen as a reaction to a number of negative factors, including the record current account deficit figures released earlier in the week.

The US reaction underlines concerns about the prospects for Wall Street, said one London broker.

Dealers are bracing themselves for further uncertainty today ahead of inflation figures in the UK and retail sales figures in the US. But as the market winds down to Christmas, investors are expected to sit tight.

Airtours, the holiday group, managed to get away from it all, after reporting better than expected profits and an upbeat report on winter and summer bookings. The shares added 11p to 74p, a high for the year.

Oil stocks were also in demand. Barmah Control led the FT-SE 100 pack yesterday, rising 20p to £10.83, on positive talk from brokers while Enterprise Oil moved up 6p to 59p, before closing unchanged at 58p.

Among banks HSBC, owner of the Midland Bank, was hit by weakness in the Far East, and fell 4p to £2.46.

Bank of Scotland was also down despite encouraging broker comment, and ended 8p lower at 28p. Abbey National fell back to end 5p lower at 70p.

Cambridge Water announced a 10 per cent share buyback plan which helped to lift its shares 3p higher to 25p. Shares in Chester Water climbed 1p to 16p after revealing a proposed £20.3 million merger with Dee Valley Water. The offer values Chester shares at 16p.25p. Dee Valley was unchanged at 42p.

NFC dipped 5p to 175p, despite improved year-end figures while First Technology added 15p to 67p after strong first-half figures.

Bid speculation pushed Imperial Tobacco 2p higher



Peter Williams, of David S Smith, which fell 7p to 299p

to 38p, with Philip Morris and BAT tipped as predators. GUS tumbled 2p to 62p, while Argos lost 2p to 76p. Demand for Alders, after its strong figures earlier in the week, helped to limit the damage, and it closed just 1p off at 14p.

Kingfisher, the Woolworth to Comet group, was 9p lower at 62p. It is to sell its

Courtaulds fell 10p to £15.26 while Pilkington dipped 2p to 59p ahead of confirmation that both are to leave the FT-SE 100 index from Monday. Moving up to replace them are Mercury Asset Management and Hays, the first management buyout to be included in the index of the 100 largest companies.

stakes in two office supply groups. Staples in the US and Max-Paper in Germany, for £30 million each.

Hanson fell 3p to 80p as the worst-performing FT-SE 100 share with a 10p fall to 23p.

Insurers were also rattled by the implications of US group Aon's \$1.23 billion offer for Alexander & Alexander.

market that the strength of sterling and difficult market conditions would hit second-half results. Analysts have trimmed estimates to around £113 million.

Strong demand for Stagecoach, the bus and train group, powered the price ahead 2p to 66p, a high for the year.

Cookson, the industrial materials group, slipped 6p to

21p after announcing the sale of its US pigments business for a £30 million net loss.

Further disposals by Caradon, completing the sale of non-core businesses in Europe, left shares in the building products group 7p lower at 231p.

RJB Mining rallied after its fall earlier in the week and climbed 4p higher to 37p.

Shares in Greene King, the brewing and pub group, dipped 4p lower to 69p after news of its restructuring plans costing £14 million and 132 jobs. Interim results at the top end of expectations failed to stir H.P. Bulmer.

The shares slid 2p to 54p after lifting pre-tax profits by 8.4 per cent to £17.4 million.

SEP Industrial Holdings fell 9p to 41p. Pre-tax profits edged ahead to £5.95 million but weakness at its Jaton subsidiary may affect the result for the current year.

Shares in WS Atkins were unmoved at 350p. The support services group, which came to the market in July, lifted pre-tax profits by 23 per cent to £10.7 million in the first half.

Braving the choppy market conditions was new entrant SDX Business Systems, which was placed at 100p and notched up a 12p premium.

AIM-listed Chelsea Village, where 750,000 shares were placed at 110, closed unchanged at 177p.

Manchester United climbed 6p to 84p after raising £16 million with a placing of three million shares at 55p.

GIIL-EDGED: The market came under selling pressure after the sharp falls in equity markets in Europe and the US.

London outperformed other European bond markets, said brokers, but volumes remained fairly low with dealers holding back until today US and UK economic data.

In futures the long gilt added £2.32 to £109.92 with 62,000 contracts. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 slipped 1/8 to £102.32 while the 8 per cent 2015 was down 1/8 to £102.12.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street came under pressure on worries that Japanese investors might reduce their holdings. There were also rumours of an imminent profit warning from IBM. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 104.95 points down at 6,368.30.

MAJOR INDEXES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 6368.30 (-104.95)

S&P Composite 735.94 (-11.74)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 20548.38 (-253.74)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 13189.60 (-452.00)

Amsterdam: AEX 1004.00 (-10.50)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2593.3 (-2.5)

Frankfurt: DAX 2841.05 (-49.50)

Singapore: Straits 2192.45 (-17.00)

Brussels: CAC-40 3033.25 (-38.10)

Paris: CAC-40 3033.25 (-38.10)

Zurich: SMI 2551.6 (-3.30)

London: FT 100 3982.5 (-53.2)

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TEMPUS

NFC's continental drift

Having been pleasantly surprised by NFC's interim results, it was business as usual yesterday with the full-year figures. Yes, the changes at the trucking group driven by Gerry Murphy, chief executive, are on the way. Overall margins rose from 4 to 4.9 per cent and cost controls have cut capital spending by 57 per cent. After stripping out the bulky exceptional of the previous year a 39 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £105.7 million is strong enough.

But no continental Europe, which contributes just £73 million of the group's £2.46 billion turnover, still gives cause for concern. Chief culprit is France, where the list of problems is embarrassingly long. Market conditions deteriorated, the creation of a national network incurred large costs, fuel prices went up and productivity went down.

to harm profits in the short term.

As a result of all the above problems the company's share price has stagnated for more than a year.

But David S Smith still has a good medium-term outlook, especially once the recovery expected in Europe starts to kick in. This is expected to happen over the

next year or two. The company's strong position in corrugated paper should work in its favour with a shortage of production forecast during the next few years.

Any gaps that appear in the portfolio can be quickly and cheaply covered by bolt-on acquisitions. On a longer term view the shares still look cheap.

David S Smith

DAVID S SMITH, the paper and packaging company, has been hit by an unfortunate pincer movement.

The high pound is hurting sterling profits from Europe, while, at the same time, it is making the British market more attractive to hardpressed European paper manufacturers desperate to use up their excesses of capacity.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the company chose to couch yesterday's half-year results in cautious terminology, warning investors that it will be hard-pressed to match the results performance during the second half.

The company has also had to bear other annoyances, such as the French lorry drivers' strike, which is likely

they are small developments. Its market, too, is slowly maturing. It works with former public sector companies, which are just gaining strength in Eastern Europe, and looking for a Western partner to hold its hand.

Meanwhile, the company is under no pressure to spend its £35 million set aside for acquisitions. Its employees are happy to watch its small corporate acorns give way to tall oak trees, and not one has so far bailed out. Given that the employees own the majority of Atkins' equity, the company is unlikely to be blown off course.

Caradon

CARADON has completed its move to focus on the building sector but this is not necessarily a step forwards.

Peter Jansen, the chief executive, has been discarding most of his baskets and is now left with all his eggs stacked together.

Gone are the automotive

parts and engineering works, and Caradon's profits now rely solely on selling showers and plugs. This would not trouble investors if the building sector was not so exposed to the economic cycle.

The last ten years have been a rollercoaster ride - exciting at first, then scary and now downright depressing. While economies around the globe are growing, the stubborn building sectors remain slow.

Mr Jansen was rightly criticised for the group's previous lack of focus - or at least for being unable to instil some drive into the unfocused businesses.

Now that the group has been trimmed down, the next step is to increase the geographical spread. Caradon recently raised its stake in Germany's Werh. However, this is only a partial solution to the problem of extreme cyclicality. The rolling and coasting will continue and investors who do not enjoy the ride should get off.

WS Atkins

WS ATKINS is an unlikely champion for the stakeholding ideal but the former family run company is putting into practice the employee shareholder vision much espoused by the blue chip companies.

At first glance, though, it seems the company is approaching the end of a short burst of profits energy. It has made a substantial chunk of its profits from a handful of mega-buck contracts, which are reaching the end of their life spans.

The order book is full enough, but no comparable replacements have been found. The City looks concerned, and has not marked its shares any higher.

But Atkins is playing a much longer term game. Its contract for the Al Yamamah Hotel and Chicago Beach Hotel, sprang from much smaller-scale consultancy work. Atkins' strategy is to net the big contracts while

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More Group n/p (600) 9p

Regulation n/p (30) 4p

MAJOR CHANGES

RESE: Exe Group 160p (+12p)

Dudley Jenkins 170p (+11p)

Stagecoach 680p (+25p)

FALLS:

Cheney 280p (-45p)

Real Time 225p (-15p)

Blick 358p (-18p)

Verica Bn Sys 565p (-22p)

Prudential 480p (-20p)

GUS 675p (-20p)

Closing Prices Page 31

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso 1.6555-1.6582

Australia dollar 1.5200-1.5202

Brazilian dollar 0.0180-0.0182

Canada dollar 1.5747-1.5749

Chinese yuan 8.2760-8.2762

Cypriot pound 0.7690-0.7692

Danish krone 6.46-6.46

Deutsche mark 1.9360-1.9362

French franc 6.55-6.55

Italian lira 1.9360-1.9362

Japanese yen 163.60-163.62

Malaysian ringgit 2.3770-2.3772

New Zealand dollar 1.62-1.62

Norwegian krone 4.76-4.76

Portuguese escudo 200.48-200.48

Spanish peseta 166.64-166.64

Swedish krona 4.66-4.66

Swiss franc 1.48-1.48

Taiwan dollar 36.46-36.46

Thai baht 54.80-54.80

US dollar 1.6555-1.6582

UK sterling 1.00-1.00

US dollar 1.6555-1.6582

UK sterling 1.00-1.00

US dollar 1.6555-1.6582

UK sterling 1.00-1.00

US dollar 1.6555-1.6582

UK sterling 1.00-1.00

US dollar 1.6555-1.6582

UK sterling 1.00-1.00

US dollar 1.6555-1.6582

UK sterling 1.00-1.00

US dollar 1.6555-1.6582

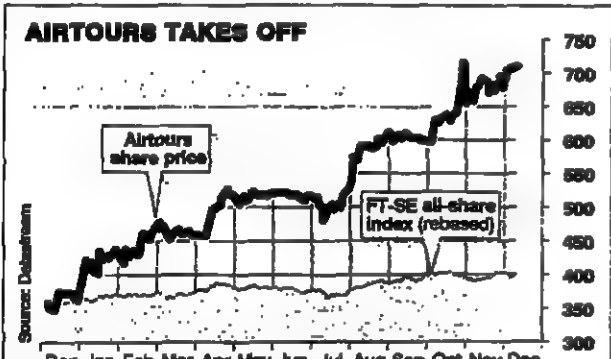
UK sterling 1.00-1.00

US dollar 1.6555-1.6582

UK sterling 1.00-1.00

US dollar 1.6555-1.6582

UK sterling 1.00-1.00



COMMODITIES

LIFFE

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Oasis pays up after a storm

OASIS STORES were feeling £5,000 poorer yesterday, after agreeing to pay compensation to Tatesian, the upmarket jewellery designer, which discovered that Oasis was selling copies of its £70 bangles for £2.99.

Tatesian ran immediately to Theodore Goddard, the City law firm, who put the squeeze on Oasis, but had to concede that it is hard to make a retailer squirm. "The courts will only give damages up to a decent royalty rate, which is no disincentive to the retailers," said Simon Clark of Theodore Goddard.

Invisible man

SANFORD KAPLAN, one of the five board members at Wickes, the do-it-yourself chain, resigned yesterday as a non-executive director. The American former senior vice-president of Xerox Corporation, will be best remembered for his absence. The invisible man, 80, was appointed to the Wickes board in 1989. Recent recruits, John Napier, 54, and Nigel Whitaker, 48, are the young blood on the board that includes Robert Burrow, 45, and Sanford Sigoloff, 66.

Quiet man

ANGUS FORBES was keeping a low profile yesterday after news broke that he is to marry prima ballerina Doreen Russell. The 31-year-old Aussie, formerly at James Capel, is in European sales at Merrill Lynch and, reportedly, to Philip Farrer. Forbes had his fingers crossed that his colleagues were working too hard to look at an afternoon issue of the London Evening Standard.



Russell: to marry Forbes

Arched back

MCDONALD'S is being snubbed by Robin Williams, star of the new Disney film *The Absent-Minded Professor*. Williams has said no to McDonald's, the "Golden Arches" burger giant, which is on the hunt for its next commercial tie-in with a Hollywood film. More stubborn than a supermarket trolley, Williams refuses to budge. He has forbidden the chain to use either his name or image for promotional purposes, including those scenes in which he appears. This is not the first time that Williams has dashed McDonald's hopes: the last time was for a commercial tie-in with the film *Aladdin*.

Bigger scope

SCOPE Communications is to merge with Ketchum, the sixth largest PR company in the world, in a deal that will bring a combined fee income of £5 million. James Maxwell, chief executive of Scope, number 27 in the UK, will report to Jerry Olszewski, managing director of Ketchum in Europe. Last February, Ketchum, whose clients include Federal Express, Doracell and United Biscuits, was bought by Omnicom. Ketchum's 20-strong team in London will move into the Covent Garden headquarters of Scope, whose clients include Allied Domecq, Toyota, McDonald's, BT, Rank Xerox, and Halfords.

MORAG PRESTON

If you know what EMU will mean, you are probably wrong



that was to revolutionise the stock market, get rid of paper and do anything anyone needed. Accountants, brokers and consultants vied to make it exciting or, failing that, threatening.

Anyone even peripherally affected was warned of the perils of being unprepared, as most inevitably were. After all that effort and angst, the plug was pulled at the last moment. Taurus did not work. Years later, the humbler Crest is to plug the gap. No one claims it is exciting; there are drawbacks and it does not work too well. But few pretend it should be the talk of the town.

There is, however, a difference between EMU and Taurus. The European currency is a Franco-German project. Given the intense debate over Britain's role in the European Union, there is a strange gap in most of these EMU briefings and analyses. They pay hardly any attention to whether sterling will be a founder member of the European currency, or even whether it will join in the next round of entrants. The arguments are well-worn and neither main party has a meaningful intention, so there is not a lot that can usefully be said. Instead, there is a vague assumption that

sterling will stay out. Unflattering as it may seem, Britain's self-preoccupation adds credibility to the EMU project. The Paris-Bonn/Brussels steamroller is likely to ensure it goes ahead, even if not quite on schedule and regardless of whether it will work properly.

By contrast, many columns are devoted to Italy. That is understandable too. Italy's membership pivots on the stability pact due to be agreed at Dublin as well as the interpretation of entry rules, and is itself pivotal to the likely character of the euro.

This ambiguity is at the heart of the project. Aside from federalist Benelux tendencies, EMU marries France's desire to soften the mark with Germany's desire to widen as far as possible the economic area that cannot devalue against its exports. As the head of the Bank of France put it, the euro should be at least as strong as the franc.

The coming together of so many different motives explains why EMU has momentum. The tension between them explains why the impact of the euro is so hard to predict in advance. No wonder financial markets hang on niceties such as the exact penalties for deviating from the stability pact limits on state borrowing.

As these tensions work through, the character of the euro is likely to change over time. It will certainly be affected by the European Commission's longer term agenda. The prime purpose of the intergovernmental Conference, which will predetermine the crucial EMU decisions, is to "reform" voting in the Council of Ministers. The aims are to take many more decisions by majority vote, instead of unanimously and, in effect, to lower the qualifying majority needed. Ostensibly, this is needed to allow entry of

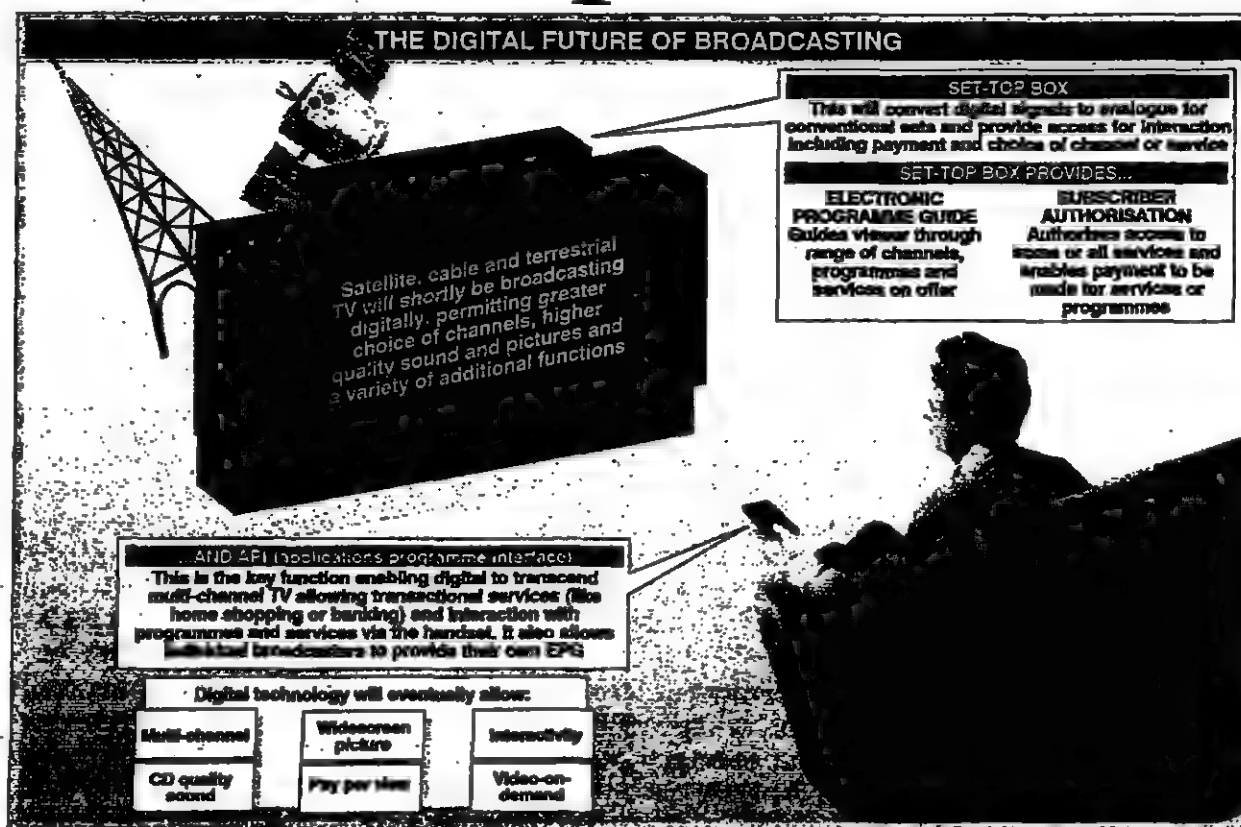
ex-Communist central Europe. It is certainly touted as a *sine qua non*, holding Czechs and Poles to ransom for big countries' vetoes. An analysis by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concludes that entry is in any case unlikely before 2005, if then. Even if Germany tried to corral its Eastern markets earlier, during its 1999 presidency, entry before 2002 can probably be ruled out.

Before that, the EU must review its budgetary arrangements. If the European currency extends beyond the richest EU members, it is likely to require more subsidies for the less competitive outposts. Entry into the EU of poorer countries with big farm sectors will add more costs and balloon the cost of the Common Agricultural Policy. The sooner they enter, the bigger the cost. Germany might be willing to pay for its markets. But the budget outcome will depend heavily on the voting structure at the time. For many member states, such as debt-ridden Italy and Belgium, the best compromise would be for the union to borrow.

The euro zone might well start with tight fiscal policies and low interest rates, giving some reward to those who have suffered to join, and relying hopefully on extra competition within the currency union to keep inflation down. Later, if union borrowing compensated for restricted external budgets, the roles might be reversed. Anyone can play the *scenario* game. The only safe bet is that if financial markets agree on the timing and impact of EMU, they will be proved wrong.

Pause button pressed on digital TV

Alexandra Frean and Eric Reguly look at the reasons for the delay



The advent of digital television, a new medium that will fundamentally change the country's viewing habits by bombarding viewers with hundreds of new channels and services, has been bogged down by a series of regulatory, legislative and commercial hurdles. Unless they are cleared in the coming months, digital TV is unlikely to make its much-vaunted debut until 1998.

The BBC, the cable companies and BSkyB had hoped to make digital TV a part of everyday life by the spring of 1997. But getting the systems in place by the summer of 1998, when France is to host the World Cup, the biggest viewing event of the decade, has now emerged as the unofficial deadline.

Britain is on the brink of a communications revolution. When digital TV arrives, the standard service will instantly seem a quaint relic of the past. Choice, and lots of it, will be its key feature. Sports and film fans will be in couch potato heaven.

Since digital transmissions take up less bandwidth on the broadcasting spectrum, more channels can be picked up by the receiver. BSkyB, for example, would replace several dozen existing analogue channels with some 200 digital channels.

With so much capacity available, viewers will be bombarded with specialised channels and a plethora of movie, film and sports services.

There would be enough space for services such as near-video-on-demand and pay-per-view. With the former, a satellite would transmit the same film at regular intervals, say 20 minutes apart, giving

viewers the luxury of tuning in whenever it suited them. With the latter, broadcasters would buy the rights to individual events and sell them on a one-off basis to subscribers.

A championship boxing fight might cost £10; alternatively, football fans would be able to buy an "electronic season ticket" to Premiership matches. Digital technology will allow them to choose which games they want to see, replay highlights and even pick camera angles. All this will be shown on wide-screen TVs with cinema-like quality.

While digital broadcasting, usually in direct-to-home satellite form, exists in several countries, only the British Government has made its introduction a national priority. Eventually, perhaps in 20 years, the existing analogue TV signals will be turned off altogether, making Britain a top-to-bottom digital market.

The BBC has already started regular digital broadcasts, albeit on radio only, and the rest of the industry is exploring ways to make it commercially

feasible. The delay in launching digital TV is not a matter of speculation.

None of the companies that make set-top boxes, the electronic devices that receive and unscramble digital broadcast signals, has started production for the British market. Pace Micro Technology, one of the largest manufacturers, had expected to learn three months ago whether it would get the go-ahead to make the first batch of several hundred thousand boxes. Steve Jones, the finance director, said: "We won't get an order until we get a firm date for the digital launch. Then it will take nine months to get the boxes out."

The BBC, the cable companies, BSkyB (the satellite broadcaster, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*), and the consumer electronics makers and retailers are all convinced that digital broadcasting is the next frontier in the entertainment industry. But none of them has actually made a firm

commitment to digital, and, after years of hype, the rush seems to be off.

Among ITV companies, only Carlton Communications has come out strongly in favour of digital terrestrial TV. While the ITV Association, which represents all the ITV companies, accepts that digital broadcasting is an inevitability, it is not wholly convinced that digital TV in terrestrial form will be a winner because it will not have the capacity to offer the hundreds of channels that BSkyB and the cable companies would like to launch.

Some argue that simply duplicating existing analogue transmission in digital form may not be enough to justify the investment.

For the rest of the industry, determining the regulatory and commercial framework—who is to share the spoils and under what conditions—appears to be the main stumbling block. Until this is settled, not a penny will be spent on digital. The set-top boxes alone could cost as much as £500 apiece unless they are subsidised by the

broadcasters. BSkyB has estimated that it faces a £1 billion bill to convert its analogue customers to digital.

The most crucial debate centres on determining the conditions under which the various broadcasters will have access to the set-top boxes and their conditional access systems—the technology used by broadcasters to ensure that only paid-up subscribers have access to its channels. The BBC, fearing that BSkyB, which is already dominant in the subscription television business, will dominate the digital-TV market and dictate set-top box access on its terms, yesterday called for

legislation guaranteeing fair and equal access to the boxes.

The set-top box is of critical importance to broadcasters because it performs three key functions. As well as unscrambling the digital signals and providing individual subscribers with access to digital pictures and sound, the boxes also contain an electronic programme guide (EPG) to help viewers to find the programmes that they want to watch from the hundreds on offer. As such it has a powerful impact on viewer perception and choice.

The BBC is particularly concerned that the branding on the front or "home" page of the EPG may unduly influence viewers. If BSkyB had effective control over the set-top box, the corporation fears, it could design the EPG to promote its own channels over those of its rivals.

Set-top boxes also contain an applications programmes interface (API), the key function that enables digital television to offer other services such as home shopping or internet services. Again, the corporation is worried that the set-top box provider could unfairly promote its own services over those of rival operators.

The third element of the set-top box is the subscriber management systems. Both the BBC and ITV are also worried that if one company were to have ultimate control over the subscriber authorisation systems, it could gain detailed knowledge of their competitors' customer base and get advance knowledge of their rivals' plans for key pay-per-view sporting events.

The BBC believes that the only way to prevent this kind of potential dominance by BSkyB is for the company to be

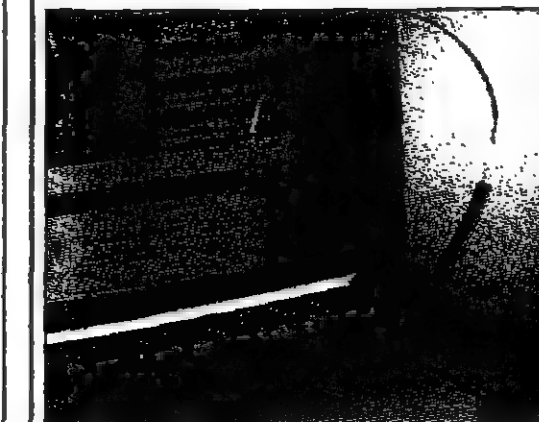
subjected to a mandatory licensing system under which it is forced to share its set-top box technology with competitors. It argues that BSkyB stands to benefit from such a system as it would receive a steady flow of cash from a guaranteed licensing fee paid by all digital television operators using its system.

Few in the industry believe that the BBC's demand for mandatory licensing will find favour with the Department of Trade and Industry, which published its draft guidelines on digital television last week. While coming out in support of access on "fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms", the DTI appears more or less to have passed the buck to Don Cruickshank, the Director-General of Telecommunications. It is now up to him to determine how to regulate the access systems to ensure there are no abuses of dominant power. He is expected to publish his guidelines before Christmas.

While the terrestrial broadcasters will now be relying more on Ofcom than the DTI to get the kind of regulation they want, BSkyB's fear is that Ofcom will treat it as a celestial British Telecom. BT has complained for years that the regulator has had more influence on its position in the market than its own directors.

Simply put, BSkyB claims that it is not prepared to kickstart the digital TV industry unless it knows it can make a satisfactory return on its investment. BSkyB said that a decision cannot be made until the regulatory proposals are known, and if they are overly strict, it could decide to delay the digital launch.

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INNOVATIONS

Money men at Lloyd's face challenge as assets shrink

Lloyd's of London is healthy at last—but will the central administration survive the rigours of consolidation? The Corporation of Lloyd's, which handles central functions, has seen its assets depleted from £500 million to £70 million, due to the costs of the Reconstruction & Renewal (R&R) programme.

The figure, disclosed at the Lloyd's annual meeting, attracted little attention, but raises important questions. How will the money men manage to run the corporation with a fraction of the assets available only a year ago and what are their constraints?

Under the Lloyd's solvency tests, the corporation must have enough cash to meet creditor commitments normally assessed on a three-month rolling basis. It also needs to show that it has adequate resources to cover all liabilities, including long-term ones. These tests are tough and uncompromising. The loss of income from the sale of Lloyd's of London Press and the increased costs of staying in the Lloyd's building—in terms of rent and loss of income from other tenants—have distorted that there may be a shortfall in cash required to fast the corporation to the end of 1997. This is why members

subscriptions were increased from 0.5 to 0.7 per cent in order to generate more than £23 million in a full year.

The rise in subscription has been set to run for a year only, to give financial managers time to drive down costs. Ron Sandler, the Lloyd's chief executive, has insisted that corporate managers co-ordinate the most intensive cost review in the history of Lloyd's. The result is already being felt in recent announcements of a radical overhaul of the corporation structure.

Although Marshall Aid is not yet needed, continual monitoring and the use of high-level financial expertise to husband resources is vital. Long gone are the days of the amateur. The financial team has been strengthened with business-hardened financial professionals who monitor compliance over solvency and the syndicated lines of £200m.

The syndicate is led by Citibank, NatWest and The Royal Bank of Canada. Although the monies were raised for bridging payments to Equitas, it was then considered necessary to lob the money into the R&R settlement pot to increase the available sum from £2.9 billion to £3.2 billion.

The banks have insisted on the most stringent controls involving a series of restrictive covenants which Lloyd's has to meet in discharging repayment conditions for the loan. Gone, perhaps for ever, are the good old days when banks lent to Lloyd's without strings. Today, although banks remain keen on exposure to the market, the R&R process has convinced them that they have a significant exposure to risk. The corporation is obliged to honour a covenant requiring Lloyd's to be able to show con-

to cover capital and interest payments can be sustained by the levy on premium income, with a comfort margin to spare. This condition may put Lloyd's in a Catch 22 situation.

If market turnover falls substantially—as it may if rates are low in 1997—a possible breach of the banking covenant cannot be ruled out. If, however, the market writes volume at the level necessary to satisfy the covenant, members could find themselves talking on business with lousy margins.

One option is to seek to reschedule the loan for a longer period. This has short-term attractions, but the shadow of R&R would last even longer. Similarly, if market conditions were tough, it might be possible to have a short-term extension from the bankers, and a "catch-up" period should market conditions improve from 1998 onwards.

The main priority for names is to encourage the money managers to win the costs battle—or the deficit will hit their pockets. The threat of insolvency, like a sentence of imminent hanging, concentrates the mind wonderfully. If lessons have been learnt, the market will prosper.



The Lloyd's building

European operations continue to thwart NFC

By Keith Rodgers

NFC, the restructured transport and logistics group, yesterday reported a 39 per cent climb in its underlying annual profits but is still struggling to turn round its loss-making European operations.

The figures were in line with expectations after a strong first half, but the company's share price slipped as several analysts downgraded their forecasts for the current year. The markdown reflected concerns about the impact of exchange rates on profits and the cost of the French lorry drivers' dispute.

For the full year to September 30, NFC reported a 12 per cent increase in turnover to £2.46 billion, fuelled by the first results from its Tradetium drinks venture with Bass and the acquisition of Cedes Logistics in Spain.

Pre-tax profits climbed to

£105.7 million before a £500,000 exceptional item relating to a loss on property sales. In the previous year NFC made pre-tax profits of £76.2 million before a £35 million restructuring charge and a £2.6 million property loss.

The results reflected the benefits of massive reorganisation over the last two years after a management shake-up which saw the appointment of Gerry Murphy as chief executive in June 1995.

However, in continental Europe NFC suffered further operating losses of £8.5 million, although this was a 10 per cent improvement. While Spain and Portugal performed well, losses in Germany were unchanged and poor market conditions led to a "disappointing" performance in France.

Operating profit in the UK and Ireland rose 28 per cent to £78.3 million, with strong profit improvements in four logistics businesses: automotive, tank freight, vehicle management services and Lynx, the express parcels business.

However, results from the media services, truck rental and pallet network arms were less satisfactory, and the company said major contracts with grocery retailers, which account for 14 per cent of UK sales, remain under pressure. Profits were also strong in the moving services arm, which includes Pickfords Removals.

It refused to comment on reports that it is discussing the sale of Lynx, which it has confirmed is not a core business. Elsewhere, North American profits climbed 73 per cent to £25.5 million, while other international operations contributed £6 million.

Earnings per share before exceptional items climbed 35 per cent to 9.3p. There will be a final dividend of 4.6p per share on February 24, leaving the total unchanged at 7.1p.

Analysts are forecasting pre-tax profits of around £122 million for the current year.

Tempos, page 28

Cookson sells US operation

COOKSON GROUP, the industrial materials conglomerate, has announced the £11.5 million sale of its loss-making US pigments division to the Hoechst group (Martin Baker writes).

The disposal will force Cookson to make a £30 million charge to its profits to cover a write-back of goodwill.

Hoechst Celanese Corporation is paying cash for Cookson Pigments, a New Jersey pigment manufacturer. A further £3 million in respect of the pigments company's finished goods inventory will be paid within the next six months.

Cookson Pigments made an operating loss of £800,000 in the first half of 1996. Net assets were recorded at £45 million.



The personal shareholding of Philip Davies in Linden is estimated at £1.14 million

Linden valued at £22.8m

LINDEN, a builder of houses on disused sites, will be valued at £22.8 million when it joins the stock market next Thursday (Fraser Nelson writes).

Linden, formed five years ago by Philip Davies, chief executive, was drawn to the market by the recovery in the housing market. It forecasts

that its operating profits will exceed £3.3 million in 1996, against £2.57 million achieved last time. It has raised £4.6 million through an institutional placing of 4.25 million shares at 150p each.

Mr Davies, who is on course to have his shareholding valued at £1.14 million, said the company stood

to gain from the closure of schools and hospitals, whose grounds local authorities were keen to redevelop for competitive prices.

The company runs 12 developments in the South East of England and eight in the North West. It will use the money raised to expand into North London.

Caradon in £200m sell-off to Vector

By Oliver August

CARADON, the building products manufacturer, has completed its wide-ranging disposal programme with the sale of its remaining European engineering and distribution businesses to Vector Industries for £200 million.

Caradon said: "This disposal, together with the sale of our automotive plastics businesses, completes our programme of divesting our non-core businesses in Europe."

The businesses sold are engaged in distribution, aerospace servicing, plastic components, automotive supplies and ventilation systems. Peter Jansen, chief executive, said: "This brings added focus and opportunities to our building products activities and takes us a significant way forward in the implementation of our strategic objectives."

Yesterday's move is Vector's third largest acquisition and has been carried out with a view to floating its shares in three to five years. The new owners do not expect to shed any of the 3,000 employees.

Guy Davison, a Vector non-executive director, said: "We are hoping to grow the companies with capital investment. This will be our core activity, while it was not for Caradon. We also want to introduce new incentive and give the management team an equity stake."

Vector is issuing a £6 million seven-year subordinated loan note to Caradon, which pays interest at 10 per cent. The note has certain priority rights in respect of disposal proceeds generated by Vector that are expected to lead to its early redemption.

Tempos, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hoechst bids \$3.5bn for outstanding stake

HOECHST, the Germany chemicals company, is to acquire the outstanding 43.47 per cent interest it does not own in Roussel Uclaf, the French pharmaceuticals company, for \$3.5 billion. The transaction will be one of the biggest announced this year on the Paris bourse. The bid offers minority shareholders a 12 per cent premium on the average price of the ordinary shares over the previous month. Hoechst said the move would boost its strength in Germany, France and America.

Analysts had been expecting Hoechst to bid for full control of Roussel Uclaf as part of a move to seek a separate stock market listing for Hoechst Marion Roussel, its drug division, market listing for Hoechst Marion Roussel and the second Erap, the French state holding company and the second largest shareholder in Roussel after Hoechst with 4.28 per cent, has already indicated it will accept the offer. On Tuesday Hoechst announced it would merge its speciality chemicals business with Clariant, the Swiss group.

Delays hit Chemring

CHEMRING has suffered a sales setback at Chaff Countermeasures, its defence unit, due to a delay in orders caused by customer budget constraints. Philip Billington, the chairman, said this would hit the group's results for the six months to March 1997. Chemring shares tumbled 45p to 290p. Pre-tax profit before exceptional items rose 3.4 per cent to £8.9 million in the year to September 30. Turnover was up 13 per cent at £80.4 million. The dividend rises to 11.45p (10.90p).

Avon bounces higher

AVON RUBBER, the tyre maker, increased full year pre-tax profits by 33 per cent in the year to September 28, helped by healthy demand for its automotive products in Europe and North America, while tyre sales were subdued. Business is expected to continue at current levels in the six months from September 28. Full-year pre-tax profits rose from £16.2 million to £21.5 million. The final dividend is 13.75p, making a 19.5p total (17.7p).

SEC soars to £2.6m

SEC GROUP, the company that makes a market in life insurance endowment policies, reported profits of £2.6 million (£1.2 million). Turnover in endowment policies nearly doubled to £52.7 million, while profits on this main business climbed 75 per cent to £2.1 million. The IFA Network companies, the financial advisory business acquired this year, contributed £500,000 profit. SEC increased its final to 2.75p, due on January 31, making a 4.75p total (3.75p).

Compel acquisition

COMPEL, the integrated computer systems supplier, is acquiring Hamilton Rentals Group, a short-term computer rental company and a reseller of Hewlett Packard and Digital systems, for up to £14.5 million. Hamilton earned operating profits of £2.1 million in 1995 on turnover of £17.6 million. Compel will fund the acquisition from the proceeds of a £15.19 million rights issue. It is offering 11 new shares for every 18 held at 160p each. Existing shares rose 1p to 177p yesterday.

Thorntons quits France

THORNTONS, the chocolate manufacturer and retailer, is to sell its loss-making French business for a nominal sum to Jeff de Bruges, a retail confectioner. Thorntons launched a £30 million expansion last month, and took a £22 million exceptional charge in the year to June 29 for restructuring, including the sale of its Belgian subsidiary, withdrawal from France and the closure of some manufacturing plants. It expects the loss on the French disposal to be lower than the £5.3 million provision.

Charities back minimum wage

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

CHARITIES pay their staff nearly 18 per cent less than the national average, but most believe they should be covered by Labour's planned minimum wage, a new report shows today.

In a survey of 155 charity organisations, which together employ more than 28,000 staff across Britain in a sector

widely seen as low-paying, the Reward pay research group says the majority do not believe a national minimum will reduce unemployment.

The survey shows that even at a level of between £4 and £4.50 an hour 67 per cent of charities do not believe a minimum wage will hit jobs.

The figures are even greater at lower wage levels - 80 per cent at between £3.50 and £4 an hour, 91 per cent at between

£3 and £3.50, and 93 per cent sceptical about any jobs impact from a minimum wage set at between £2.50 and £3.

Overall, charities are broadly divided about a national minimum, with 34 per cent seeing it as a good idea and 28 per cent against, with a further 34 per cent maintaining that it depends on a number of factors - principally the level at which it is set.

Chris Trinder, chief econo-

mist at the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, said the "clear cut message is that charities will and should have to cope with the consequences of the national minimum wage".

The study denies recent suggestions that a number of charity chiefs are becoming the new "fat cats", showing that they are 18 per cent less well off than their counterparts in industry.

ACCOUNTANCY

We boldly go into next generation

By Roger Davis

For accountants, a "poorer and shabbier future beckons" because of technology substitution. So said Pennington (The Times, November 12) about the English Institute's strategy proposals for the year 2005.

Nonsense. Accountants have made smart use of technology since punched-card data processing in the 1950s. Technology frees accountants from drudgery and repetition. In the core subjects of accounting, control and audit we are entering a fourth generation, which promises an exciting future.

In the 19th century, investors lent money to joint stock companies. A timeless principle was established of directors' accountability to shareholders for what had been done with their money, which will carry to the 21st century. This is why we have to tidy up goodwill accounting: you cannot have payments vanishing as though they were not real money. And we have overcomplicated life: preliminary statements, simplified accounts and full Companies Act accounts sounds like one too many.

Everything else moved on. The first generation was about receipts and payments with no measure of worth. In the second generation we invented accruals and profit on money invested. The third stemmed from market valuation based on historical price-earnings ra-



Roger Davis is convinced that an exciting future beckons the accountancy profession

ties. Earnings per share drive accounting practice. But that is still about the past.

Who actually reads accounts? Value judgments on a company today rely on Stock Exchange announcements and presentations to analysts. Sewardship accounting cannot value a company. Are we accountants in this business just to help to keep the score of a game already over? The only value measure is confidence in future cashflow from a company's markets and management's

ability to exploit them. So the fourth generation is about developing shareholder value analysis and squaring information to the market with investment appraisal criteria. If accountants don't do so, someone else will.

In control too, there is the timeless bit and the changing bit. The former is about safeguarding assets: directors must not be reckless with investors' money or put their hands in the till. The latter is entering a fourth generation.

In the beginning each transaction was checked and countersigned by a hierarchy. Then came mechanical data processing, where transactions could be authorised in groups, and a systems approach. Systems became reliable and we entered the third phase: analysing risk and trying to spot where systems might fail.

Now, as we move into the fourth era, risk management in unforgiving global markets is at the strategic heart of a company's survival. This re-

quires the right kind of forward-looking information to be made available to the board so killer mistakes are avoided. As with accounts, looking forward, not back, is becoming crucial.

We see a similar pattern in auditing. Statutory audits will always be needed given human frailty in a competitive society. But, from three generations of ticking the books, systems audit and risk-based auditing, the fourth will require association with value judgments and the whole corporate reporting process. Compliance reports on the past accounts and boilerplate reports on internal control will ensure survival of auditing but not a seat at the top table. As with a prospectus, the auditor must decide whether or not to put his name to the whole show. The fourth generation of risk management will mean incremental assurance services.

This profession has risen to the challenge of the first three generations and there is no reason why it cannot rise to the fourth. The profession is still immensely attractive to bright graduates, and will remain so. The opportunities of understanding business and its disciplines and ethics remain unrivalled. With the right steer, we will be far from poor and shabby. We will be prosperous and smart.

Roger Davis is Head of Accounting and Audit at Coopers & Lybrand.

Veering off from the straight and narrow

DELOITTE & TOUCHE today publishes its second survey of corporate governance disclosure. Based on the accounts of the FT-SE 100 companies, it shows that companies are, by and large, fulfilling their growing responsibilities under the various regulations and guidance papers on corporate governance.

So far, so good. The problems come, as they always do in this field, from the perceptions. The survey is entitled *Avoiding Corporate Governance Overload*. In other words, the ideas behind the survey show a clear bias. Rules that aim to ensure that companies stick to the straight and narrow of corporate governance are seen to be meddlesome.

Not surprisingly, some of Deloitte & Touche's recommendations follow this line. They say that the Hampel committee should not bother with any further rules or best-practice provisions on directors' remuneration. And, in a catch-all, the firm recommends that "society should avoid overloading UK plc with more corporate governance codes".

All this stems from an attitude which some may find surprising from an independent firm of auditors. This is the opening section of the forward written by Martin Seidman, the Deloitte & Touche chairman: "Five years ago the process began of reacting to the events which unfolded following the demise of Robert Maxwell. Since then there have been no convictions in the courts."

"The pension industry is about to face a new regulatory regime which has all the hallmarks of a statutory response, including a plethora of codes and regulations, which I understand could run to twice the length of the Bible. Meanwhile, in the same period, the UK corporate sector has already gained three years' experience of Cadbury and 18 months' experience of Greenbury."

On a seasonal note, this attitude is satirised by Stella Fearnley, an English ICA council member, in a Christmas carol she has produced. In one verse, Sir Ronnie Hampel supposedly sings, to the tune of *Deck the Halls*: "Why did I take this daft job on? I now have a nasty problem! Regulation stifles growth! But these idiots want both."

The call from the clients of Deloitte & Touche, and many other companies, is one of ridding them of the spotlight on corporate governance. "Why change something which is the envy of other countries?" argues

Seidman. To which critics might respond that if something is the envy of the world, should the emphasis be on improving it rather than mothballing it?

Last week's conference in Brussels on the role of the auditor in the European Union suggests that improvement is the goal. Take the old arguments on internal control, for example. Deloitte & Touche argues that directors should not have to say that a company's system of internal control is "effective", but instead that the system provides "reasonable assurance". This is overwhelming what the companies surveyed would prefer.

Ian Percy, the auditing practices board's vice-chairman, addressed this question in Brussels. But he turned around the use of the word "reasonable". In my view, he said, "the reasonable user's expectation of directors is that they will have a built-in system of internal control which is appropriate for their purpose in order to minimise the risk of fraud or the risk of inadequate management information, and that they will monitor its capability."

The problem for company directors of the word "effective" is that it puts their views uncomfortably and unequivocally on the line. Reasonableness is, to use the current Euro-jargon, a fudge.

Mr Percy welcomed the "carefully crafted" words in the European Commission green paper "that directors take responsibility for setting up and maintaining systems, and that auditors should be expected to say whether they appear to be well-designed to serve their purpose".

That neatly sums it up. It is a question of taking responsibility. Directors are happy to take responsibility for a rise in profits, but reluctant to take responsibility for a fall in profits.

The same goes for boards of directors. The Deloitte survey says "two-tier boards should not be imposed on UK plc". Yet the result of Cadbury has been exactly that, and it has strengthened the reputation and performance of companies. So much so that in Europe the new version of two-tier boards is seen as the way forward. The UK company director tried to fight off the idea of the wasteful and ineffective European board structures by negative tactics. In fact, their battle has been won by the vigorous imposition of corporate governance reform. Companies should ditch the dogma of "overload" and seek efficiency and profitability through the agency of change.



ROBERT BRUCE

A few technical difficulties

THE long search for a new technical director of the English ICA shows no sign of ending. There were worried faces last week as secretariat members made yet another visit to headhunters after more failures to get someone to sign on the dotted line.

Moving the goalposts may not have helped. The institute originally wanted someone to run the technical directorate and boost its abilities at

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

as the source and leader of technical excellence. Now they also want the new director to take an active role in going round the regions telling members whatever is perceived as the good news.

Aspirant technical directors are, it seems, wary of barrages of rotten fruit.

Golden era

THERE were some honest

ken down at Pannell Kerr Forster last week. The firm's managing partner, John Wosner, was reporting record leaps in profitability and emphasising that making these public would scotch rumours that mid-tier firms are doomed.

But he is a quiet man and not given to the razzmatazz of announcing results. Asked whether he liked this brave new world of accountancy firms announcing profit hikes,

was "to be a professional man in the 1920s". He sighed and then pulled himself together to admit that "you have to live with the world as it is".

The write stuff

THE Scottish ICA's magazine, *CA Magazine*, is looking for a new editor. Neil Fitzgerald has concluded his five-year stint with not only the centenary issue of the magazine, but also his resignation. He aims to

spread his Scottish business-writing portfolio wider as a freelance. In his time, the magazine was transformed. It increased circulation and profits, and won awards as the best Scottish business magazine.

This is not so say that all members agreed with him. To people for whom the words "dearie me" followed by a refreshing cup of tea was the acme of professional behaviour, Fitzgerald's energy and business zeal was often thought, well, a bit challenging for Edinburgh.

ROBERT BRUCE

Equities stem early fall

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
127	127	127	Amstel	127	0	0	12.7
128	128	128	Beck's	128	0	0	12.8
129	129	129	Carlsberg	129	0	0	12.9
130	130	130	Heineken	130	0	0	13.0
131	131	131	King	131	0	0	13.1
132	132	132	Lowen	132	0	0	13.2
133	133	133	Miller	133	0	0	13.3
134	134	134	Orkla	134	0	0	13.4
135	135	135	Perrier	135	0	0	13.5
136	136	136	Sanofi	136	0	0	13.6
137	137	137	Stout	137	0	0	13.7
138	138	138	Wm Watson	138	0	0	13.8
139	139	139	Wm Watson	139	0	0	13.9
140	140	140	Wm Watson	140	0	0	14.0
141	141	141	Wm Watson	141	0	0	14.1
142	142	142	Wm Watson	142	0	0	14.2
143	143	143	Wm Watson	143	0	0	14.3
144	144	144	Wm Watson	144	0	0	14.4
145	145	145	Wm Watson	145	0	0	14.5
146	146	146	Wm Watson	146	0	0	14.6
147	147	147	Wm Watson	147	0	0	14.7
148	148	148	Wm Watson	148	0	0	14.8
149	149	149	Wm Watson	149	0	0	14.9
150	150	150	Wm Watson	150	0	0	15.0
151	151	151	Wm Watson	151	0	0	15.1
152	152	152	Wm Watson	152	0	0	15.2
153	153	153	Wm Watson	153	0	0	15.3
154	154	154	Wm Watson	154	0	0	15.4
155	155	155	Wm Watson	155	0	0	15.5
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170	170	170	Wm Watson	170	0	0	17.0
171	171	171	Wm Watson	171	0	0	17.1
172	172	172	Wm Watson	172	0	0	17.2
173	173	173	Wm Watson	173	0	0	17.3
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188	188	188	Wm Watson	188	0	0	18.8
189	189	189	Wm Watson	189	0	0	18.9
190	190	190	Wm Watson	190	0	0	19.0
191	191	191	Wm Watson	191	0	0	19.1
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298	298	298	Wm Watson	298	0	0	29.8
299	299	299	Wm Watson	299	0	0	29.9
300	300	300	Wm Watson	300	0	0	30.0
301	301	301					

THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 12 1996

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OPERA

La Scala opens its new season with a wildly expensive — and dreadful — production of Gluck's *Armide*



CONCERT

Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts a thrilling performance of György Ligeti's Requiem with the Philharmonia

THE TIMES ARTS



POP

At his Brixton Academy gig, Beck throws a little bit of everything into a high-speed cultural blender



THEATRE

Matthew Francis directs a thrilling new production of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* at Greenwich



György Ligeti with Esa-Pekka Salonen: a thrilling partnership

An awesome space odyssey

GYÖRGY Ligeti's Requiem is one of the few pieces of uncompromising avant-garde music that nearly everybody has heard, even if they don't know it. It supplied the unearthly choral effects on the soundtrack of Kubrick's film, *2001: A Space Odyssey*. And the overwhelming impression of the Requiem — of awesome power allied to inscrutable super-intelligence, of humanity (individual voices) dissolving into a vast cosmic pattern that we cannot even dimly understand (the hubbub) — does mirror Kubrick's fable of man hurtling through space under the control of a malign computer.

But that brief snatch on film scarcely prepares one for the impact of the full work experienced in the concert hall. And on Monday, as part of the South Bank's Ligeti festival, Esa-Pekka Salonen conducted the Philharmonia Orchestra and London Sinfonietta Chorus in a thrilling performance. Ligeti interweaves voices of the same register — all the basses, for instance — into tight clusters of adjacent notes, and then weaves those clusters into each other. At first the resulting sound seems totally opaque, totally without movement.

But gradually, with the help of orchestral shading, it opens out into an explosive *Dies irae* with scything brass outbursts and histrionic intrusions by virtuosic solo

Philharmonia/Salonen Festival Hall/Radio 3

voices (Charlotte Hellekant and Sibylle Ehlerst superb here). Finally comes an ethereal coda, like a frozen half-life. It contains the key to the whole work, or so the composer says. The first-time listener may not be so sure. But few choral works written since 1945 make such a powerful impression.

What a pity that it was prefaced here by Debussy's woe-filled "mystery play" *Le martyr de Saint Sébastien*: five minutes of musical brilliance preceded by 60 minutes of drivel. How anybody can take seriously this preposterous exercise in high-camp masochism is indeed a mystery.

But they do. Salonen coaxed beautiful timbres out of a hugely inflated Philharmonia in the dries and drabs of incidental music. The actress, Kelly Hunter, swooned through the perfumed prose about the lovely lad who craves torture and execution. Various soloists popped up from improbable corners to warble ecstatically about the joy of pain, or vice versa. Chorus cooed. Lights flashed. And everybody kept a comically straight face — the only straight thing in the whole work.

RICHARD MORRISON

OPERA: Rodney Milnes is appalled by the extravagant opening of Milan's La Scala season

No expense spared, unhappily

THE new production of Gluck's *Armide* (1777) that opened the season at La Scala on Saturday could well have served as the centrepiece of a weekend seminar on arts funding — and indeed should have done, as it served little other purpose. To those accustomed to the wars of cash-strapped British opera companies, it was an eye-opener. I spent most of the evening wondering what on earth this show could have cost — the combined production budgets of the Garden and the Coliseum for a year, probably — and the rest of the evening wondering why. As a display of conspicuous consumption it verged upon the obscene, and explained the fierce resentment of La Scala felt by other Italian companies, many of them as cash-strapped as ours.

Given that what happened on stage had precious little to do with Gluck's opera — indeed, betrayed it — there could be no more powerful argument for stringent financial control from someone, somewhere. The décor was by Pier Luigi Pizzi, who also directed. A series of massive, three-dimensional sets was unveiled behind drops composed of paintings as if in a gallery a different set of paintings, if you please, for each act. Gold leaf glittered, mechanical horses trundled about, a huge false baroque ceiling flew in for ten minutes, tilted for no reason — talk about effects without causes — and disappeared, never to be seen again. Hundreds of costumes for principals, chorus and dancers in extravagant fabrics were changed at the drop of a hat, and many were hideous — there cannot be an ostrich left in all of Africa with a feather on its hind quarters.

And where, you might ask, was Gluck's neo-classical "beautiful simplicity" amid all this witless operatic baroque? Sunk without trace: if Pizzi was directing anything apart from his own sets, it was Lully's setting of the Quinault libretto, not Gluck's. Entirely missing in one of the great operas about sensual love were eroticism, magic, a sense of the demonic, and — in the fourth act — humour. What direction there was merely served the interests of the next visual effect.

Some, but not much, of what was missing was supplied in the pit by Riccardo Muti. He found the right languorous sensuality for the dance music (ill-matched by the mimy posturings on stage) and laid out the musico-dramatic shape of each act persuasively. But with the huge Scala Orchestra producing a warm featherbed of 19th-century sonorities, Gluck's spare, tense sound-world seemed a long way away.

Anna Caterina Antonacci, Glyndebourne's stunning Ermine, sang the title role with equal warmth and in good French: in so large a theatre she couldn't quite deliver that sense of vocal overdrive essential in an *Armide*. Violeta Urmana certainly did, in her brief intervention as the personification of Hate, and it would be interesting to hear her in the main role. Vinson Cole sang the high tenor role of Renaud gently, sweetly and with succulent head tone, predictably, he was booed. But the undirected soloists honestly didn't stand a chance: they, and Gluck, might have done if the production budget — was there one? — had been cut by 90 per cent. I have never witnessed so vivid a demonstration of the hideous dangers of limitless subsidy.



Anna Caterina Antonacci in *Armide*: "There cannot be an ostrich left with a feather on its hind quarters"

THEATRE: *Huckleberry Finn* comes thrillingly to life in Greenwich

Escape on a raft of good ideas

THE vital ingredient when staging *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is some means to suggest that he really is rafting downriver. Russell Craig's design for this new production at the Greenwich Theatre, adapted and directed by Matthew Francis, naturally uses the riverboat, but it is the three irregular blocks he puts on to this that help us to imagine so vividly the alternating calm and danger of the Mississippi, beneath the low, huge moon.

An inclined plane does for the raft itself but beyond this, sometimes coming to the fore, are two larger, hollow structures able to represent the steamboat that upturns the raft and at other times, simply by moving, to give the impression of the distant banks the raft goes past. One of these blocks is what we first see, turned to show its tip-tilted interior, Huck's bedroom at the Widow Douglas's house, where he is writhing in a double nightmare. Jim is in this scene too, singing a slave's song in a blue spot that gives his skin the look of polished ebony. Their fates are intertwined from the start.

A book so vast and sequential has to be looped, but it also



Slave and boy: Clive Llewellyn and Daniel Newman

has to be made to seem contained within three hours, and Francis splices several of the later episodes together in order to give the adventures dramatic shape. This leads to some confusion near the end when various colonels, judges and long-lost brothers keep

popping back into the action, to give the impression that the Mississippi must have been as short as your average brook to allow distances to be covered so rapidly.

But this later awkwardness cannot efface the prevailing thrill of the production, the

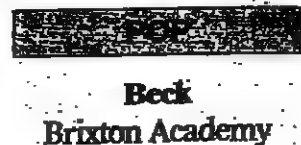
sense that what Huck and Jim are embarked on truly is an adventure, where the issue is life or death, freedom or slavery. Daniel Newman, apparently aged 20 but looking years younger, makes a marvellously sympathetic Huck, alertly puzzled by the weird antics of the adult world and boyishly proud of his inventive lies — creative lying, unlike the rubbish that excites Tom Sawyer. Huck's crucial dilemma, whether to revolt against the slaving principles he has been taught, is not lost, though Jim's anxiety at travelling ever deeper into slave country has faded.

Clive Llewellyn's Jim is another sympathetic portrayal, helping to create the loving friendship between slave and boy. Llewellyn is so tall that Huck's feet kick the air when the two embrace.

The feuding Grangerfords are given some stately, self-praising songs, adding enjoyable mockery to their strange behaviour, but Francis has introduced dashes of humour throughout the evening, including several interventions by wildlife that earned (and merited) amazed applause.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Undersold icon



Beck Brixton Academy

Sixties folk, Seventies hard-rock, Eighties hip-hop and Nineties grunge into a high-speed cultural blender before adding surreal, stream-of-consciousness raps to the resultant musical muck.

Expectations were therefore running feverishly high at his packed Brixton Academy show on Tuesday. In person, though, the diminutive Beck proved to be less than the sum of his parts, his studied amateurism appearing more shambling than charming. Despite his stylishly retro three-piece suit and louché lounge-singer moves, this flush-faced strapping with his flailing mop of orange hair merely resembled an uncomfortable pre-pubescent attending a wedding.

Which might explain why he lacked sufficient authority

to carry off many of his performance tricks. Dismissing his backing band early in the show for a lengthy solo spot on acoustic guitar and harmonica was a mistake, deadening the ambience before it had developed. Not even a bouncy romp through his breakthrough novelty hit, *Loser*, or an extended rap improvisation on *Where It's At*, could provide Beck with the popular point he lacked.

A turning point of sorts finally arrived with a raucous reading of his current hit, *Devil's Haircut*, a booming

funk-rock anthem that was greeted with a mixture of rapture and relief. What followed was an uneven but energetic patchwork of gravel-voiced rap, pastiche country rock and harmony-showman-ship as Beck faked a cheerful breakdown and had himself carried off stage, only to reappear in a garish Elvis Presley jumpsuit.

Beck's performance-art leanings are worryingly pronounced. Although his dazzling eclecticism undoubtedly stems from a genuine love of diverse musical forms, his presentation requires far more straight-faced self-assurance if it is to avoid coming across as sniggering post-modern irony. Honour may be a vital ingredient of great pop, but Beck undersells his genuine musical merits by refusing to take himself seriously and encouraging us to do the same.

STEPHEN DALTON

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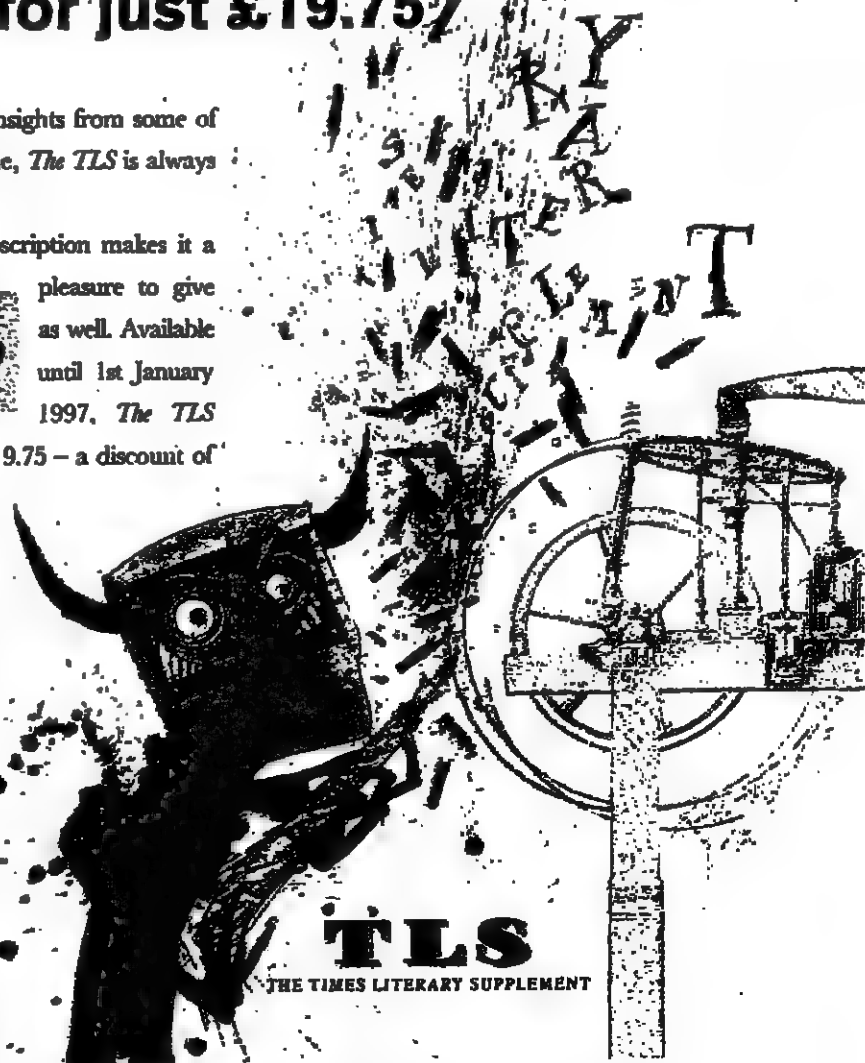
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Bordering on yesteryear

Maps present a unique medium of communication, yet an approach to historical cartography has, at times, prevented the utilisation of maps to their full advantage. Historians, barring a few such as Martin Gilbert, have tended to give the impression that they were less than fully comfortable with visual as opposed to textual exposition. The result is the reduction of maps to the level of auxiliaries, even in historical atlases. It follows that attention paid to maps is insufficient — which can lead to superficiality and inaccuracies. Many weaknesses of the Crampton's atlas can be seen to spring from this tradition.

The authors' aim is to be comprehensive, yet the atlas is a wasted opportunity. The structure is somewhat unimaginative: it is essentially chronological and the chapters of the consecutive periods are broken down chiefly on a country-by-country basis. This mechanical approach is not in itself a significant disadvantage, although a more issue-orientated structure would have focused the mind better. The central question is the neglect of the cartographic content. The problem here is not a lack of perfection: it is an apparent lack of care. The subject area alone should have invited more than usual attention to the details of mapping, given the frequent and large-scale frontier changes and ethnic conflicts. The factual unreliability is compounded by an atlas purporting to aim at the academic market.

The errors are frequently severe. On page 6, *Administrative boundaries in Austria-Hungary*, three redundant frontier lines feature. The inclusion of the one between Transylvania and Hungary — which was in fact obsolete from 1867 — may result in undesirable implications concerning the Hungarian-Romanian controversy. A few administrative entities featured there are no less anachronistic: some become dysfunctional for the period (Banat, Transylvania), others were yet unknown quantities (Slovakia, Rutenia).

Another map of *Territorial changes after the Balkan Wars (1912-13)* erroneously indicates the area between the Enos-Midia and the Chatalja lines as a gain by Bulgaria. The Chatalja line, although reached by Bulgarian troops, has not functioned even briefly as a political frontier. There are instances, as indeed the correct description of the

András Bereznay fails to lose himself in a chronicle of Europe made in maps

ATLAS OF EASTERN EUROPE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
By Richard and Ben Crampton
Routledge, £55
ISBN 0 415 06691 1



Bucharest after revolt (1900)

Enos-Midia line as a frontier on page 21, when the text contradicts the map it is to explain. Chelno is described correctly on page 33 as assigned to Ukraine under the Brest-Litovsk Treaty of 1918, yet it appears in Poland on the related map on page 32, where other frontiers are also extremely unreliable. There are more mistakes not listed here. Inconsistencies, such as maps that contradict each other, are not rare. This is particularly conspicuous in the case of maps showing ethnic and religious boundaries, which are usually deeply unreliable, displaying data bordering, at times, on the bizarre. Inherent contradictions, however, are not there alone. The area regained by Hungary from Romania in 1940 is featured correctly on page 80, wrongly on page 120. Towns and area names appear at times peculiarly ill-located, with the odd spelling — only to appear spelt correctly in the good glossary.

Diagrams and graphs are useful additions, but one of them, on page 139, is impossible to interpret. Keys are on occasion incorrect. Some curious things occur. Each map is allocated with grid markings, superfluously so as no corresponding data of grid reference is provided in the index. Maps that show the comparative overview of frontiers which would be relevant at either end of the book, are dropped inconspicuously on pages 144-150, with no reference to their existence in the contents.

These problems alone could undermine the credibility of any reference book, yet this atlas has more. Consistency of cartographic quality of all maps featured is a *sine qua non* of any atlas publication. This is lacking here. Most maps are sketchy: the cartographic methods employed are frequently substandard, after which the maps of the last two sections, of greatly superior quality, come as a surprise. Sadly, most of these are largely devoid of information more specific than found in ordinary geographical atlases.

The text accompanying the maps is the best part, although not free from errors. It is mistakenly stated that the Greeks were not required to cede territory in 1897 after their war with the Turks, and it is odd to read about tension in 1815-48 between Vienna and "Budapest". Not only was "Budapest" created later — in 1873 — but also the seat of the Hungarian Parliament was Pozsony until 1848.

On occasion the colourful gains ground at the expense of the important. Space is found to tell of a Romanian's fainting on hearing the terms of the 2nd Vienna Award in 1940 when northern Transylvania was returned to Hungary, while in describing the Bucharest Treaty of 1918, the crucial fact that Romania annexed Bessarabia remains unmentioned.

Despite these problems, the text is essentially useful and informative. Its quality is certainly far superior to that of the maps, raising the question whether the authors would not have served their readers better if they had remained entirely with the means of communication in which they are so clearly more at home.

András Bereznay conceived and compiled the maps of *The Times Atlas of European History* (Times Books, £25), and contributed to *The Times Atlas of the 20th Century* (Times Books, £25).

Roy Porter examines Victorian psychiatry and is shocked by how little has changed



19th-century cruelty and corruption in Bedlam were nothing new: William Hogarth's *Rake's Progress* (1735) depicting the squalor of life in the asylum

Still a great distance from Utopia

The public's verdict on psychiatry has never been more jaundiced, and the insights afforded by this pair of books into its 19th-century roots help to show why. A collaboration between three leading historians, *Masters of Bedlam* offers an engrossing gallery of the pioneers of Victorian psychiatry. The moral of these biographical sketches is that, for all their good intentions and sanguine rhetoric, the enterprise was always shaky, often sleazy, and at bottom intellectually hollow.

The first "suspect" is John Haslam, the apothecary to Bethlem Hospital at the dawn of the 19th century, though soon to be fired after a parliamentary investigation had exposed cruelty and corruption in Bedlam's management. Haslam brought his fate upon himself, rating on his colleagues before the MPs (the late surgeon, he revealed, had been an alcoholic who had himself needed a straitjacket), and defending practices too harsh to be acceptable in an age of reform.

After Haslam, any self-respecting psychiatrist had to be a reformer. At London's Hanwell Hospital John Conolly pioneered "non-restraint", freeing inmates from chains and straitjackets. Samuel Gaskell, superintendent in Lancaster, showed how a madhouse could be run both economically

and yet humanely. Alexander Morison set up the first psychiatric lectures; John Bucknill, head of the Devon Asylum, gave the profession dignity by writing textbooks, editing journals and imparting an air of muscular Christianity in the Arnold of Rugby manner; and, most optimistically, the Scot, W. A. F. Browne, declared the asylum of the future would be a "Utopia".

However admirable and admired, all such worthies reveal psychiatry's fatal flaws. Like Haslam, Morison too was involved in a Bedlam scandal. Conolly who, like Bucknill, was long the scourge of "the trade in lunacy", eventually stooped to running a private asylum himself and bending the certification laws in the process; while in his later years Bucknill lost faith in the efficacy of the national asylum system he had championed.

And this book's sense of wasted

MASTERS OF BEDLAM
The Transformation of the Mad-Doctoring Trade

By Andrew Scull, Charlotte MacKenzie and Nicholas Harvey
Princeton University Press, £25

ISBN 0 691 03411 7
WILD BEASTS AND IDLE HUMOURS
The Insanity Defense from Antiquity to the Present

By Daniel N. Robinson
Harvard University Press, £19.95

ISBN 0 674 05289 8

labour and despair culminates in a superb chapter on Henry Maudsley, the gloomy giant of late Victorian psychiatry, who feuded with all his colleagues and finally deemed his profession a futile enterprise, since it offered false hope to degenerate specimens it couldn't help. This Jacques-like figure eventually chucked in the towel, went off to watch cricket in Australia (even then English cricket was on the slide), and left his fortune to found a new sort of hospital that would be as unlike the Victorian asylum as possible.

A comparable portrait of an ambiguous legacy is offered by *Wild Beasts and Idle Humours*. An American psychologist, Daniel N. Robinson, traces the development of the insanity plea, exonerating from punishment criminals judged to have been mad at the time of committing their crime. Traditionally, commonsense criteria

were used, but in the 19th century psychiatric experts began to elbow their way into the witness box.

As well as providing an assured historical survey, Robinson offers an indictment. These days, he claims, justice is threatened by the irresponsible proliferation of so-called medical evidence allegedly proving the psychiatric unfitness of defendants to stand trial. He implies that most of this "expertise" presented before the courts is "arbitrary" or "capricious", and that the finger of blame for this development should be pointed at the empire-building activities of Victorian psychiatric professionals — and the credulous willingness of courts and the public to listen to the "couldn't help it" school.

Robinson's thrust — and it comes out clearly in a bone he picks with Scull — is that those who have the real know-how in these matters are the lawyers. Believe that if you will. The clear message of both these books, however, is that, while Victorian psychiatry staked its claim to a unique medical insight into the cause and cure of lunacy, such claims were built on sand. The monotonous regularity with which mental patients released into the community still prove violent and dangerous suggests things have changed all too little.

A remarkable demonstration of love

While some (shockingly) have already detected the beginnings of Holocaust-fatigue, the flow of stories about the Holocaust remains unrelenting. It seems rather to accelerate as new documents become available and a sense of millennial urgency grows. These two new contributions remind us just how much remains unknown.

Nathan Stoltzfus has turned a paragraph of history into an inquiring book. For one week in March 1943, outside Nos 2-4 Rosenstrasse, Berlin (the Jewish community's social services centre), more than 150 non-Jewish women conducted a noisy, daily and ultimately successful demonstration demanding the release of their Jewish relatives forcibly held inside. As a result of their families' protest the arrested,

either intermarried Jewish husbands or *Mischlinge* (children with one Jewish parent, escaped deportation and survived the war).

In part it is a story of female resourcefulness. The 1935 Nuremberg Laws forbade new marriages between Aryan and Jew, and put pressure on the Aryan partners in old ones to divorce their spouses. Those wives who didn't — the major-

ity — were mostly rejected by their German families and friends and suffered the loss of their Jewish in-laws. Their action is another chapter in the history of effective non-violent direct action.

But Stoltzfus uses the incident to ask wider questions about the Nazi project and its success. Hitler vacillated extraordinarily on the whole issue of intermarriage and *Mischlinge*, finally deferring their extermination indefinitely — because, argues Stoltzfus, Nazis advanced through its apparent legitimacy: Hitler constantly strove to avoid exciting popular dissent. By 1942 the Nazis had successfully isolated German Jews

from the rest of the population so that they could be dispossessed and expelled without protest, but extricating intermarried Jews from the web of German families proved too initiative. Had Germans reacted with equal vigour when "full Jews" were being prised from their cities and towns, argues Stoltzfus, then the Final Solution might have faltered.

His argument would seem to support Daniel Goldhagen's recent controversial claim that German anti-Semitism was the motor of the Holocaust: Stoltzfus gives many examples of Germans denouncing and policing their intermarried and *Mischlinge* neighbours, but also acknowledges that the Nazis may have tolerated the Rosenstrasse protest because it touched only the periphery of the Final Solution.

It is a well-argued book, flawed only by purple writing in the insufficiently edited case histories which interleave painstakingly researched historical chapters. This undermines the book's otherwise unimpeachable authority.

Susi Beshkofer was a *Mischling* who came to Britain from a Munich orphanage in 1938 aged three, one of the 10,000 children who escaped Nazi Europe on the Kindertransporte. *Rosa's Child* tells her gripping, moving story. Adopted by a controlling Welsh Baptist minister, she was not only stripped of her name and Jewish identity, but also sexually abused by him.

It wasn't until the 1980s that Susi, now Grace Stocken, a



Mischling Werner Goldberg, in uniform, with his mother, photographed by his Jewish father in 1938

churchgoing wife and retired nurse quite bereft of any sense of who she was, began to try to trace her parentage, and discovered that her father had been a philandering Aryan who had abandoned her Jewish mother, Rosa, when five months pregnant. Rosa's life ended in Auschwitz. Susi's (she has reclaimed her birth-name) began properly with the acquisition of this painful information about her own past and her mother's.

Again, a powerful story is ill-served by the gratuitous

tropes more appropriate to a women's magazine. But as the book progresses, more of Susi's own first-person voice is included and with it her insight: together with *Resistance of the Heart*, *Rosa's Child* recovers more Holocaust victims and near-victims from the anonymity of the mass, and helps to restore them to individuality.

Anne Karpf's The War After: Living with the Holocaust is published by Heinemann, priced £16.99.

Not open to negotiation

Brian Crozier

FIGHTING TERRORISM
By Benjamin Netanyahu
Allison & Busby, £14.99
ISBN 0 85031 919 6

The young man who came to London in the spring of 1979 impressed me by his intelligence and his command of American English. He invited me to deliver the keynote speech at a conference in Jerusalem on international terrorism, on behalf of the Jonathan Institute, of which he was the director.

His name, of course, was Benjamin (or Binyamin) Netanyahu, and the Institute had been created to commemorate his brother Jonathan who had lost his life in the Israeli raid on Entebbe, Uganda, three years earlier. Ironically, our host was the Prime Minister Menachem Begin, himself a terrorist in his day as leader of the Irgun Zvai Leumi (although he claimed in his speech not to have been one since Irgun's targets were soldiers, not civilians).

In this short book, Netanyahu analyses recent examples of terrorism, such as the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York and of the Federal Building in Oklahoma. But his main target, having disposed of Soviet sponsorship of international terrorism, is the relatively recent exponential growth of the Islamic variety.

Certain passages make it clear why it has been particularly difficult for Netanyahu, as Prime Minister, to pick up the Israeli dialogue with Yasser Arafat's PLO, initiated by his predecessor Yitzhak Rabin. He refers to the PLO's "Palestine National Covenant" as "a hodgepodge of Nasserist Pan-Arab fascism and Marxist clichés about the end of 'colonialism', all of it aimed at destroying Israel as a Western intrusion into the Arab realm".

He is careful not to blame Islamic terrorism on Islam itself: "a great religion that has fostered, as in medieval Spain, some of the world's most

advanced civilisations". Usefully, he gives accurate and apposite details of the roles of Iraq, Iran and Syria in sponsoring international terrorism, but also of the lesser known role of support groups in unexpected places, such as Belgium and Germany.

In his last chapter, "What is to be done", the author lists a series of measures that are worth quoting:

1. Sanctions on suppliers of nuclear technology to terrorist states. 2. Diplomatic, economic and military sanctions on the terrorist states themselves. 3. Neutralise terrorist enclaves. 4. Freeze financial assets in the West of terrorist regimes and organisations. 5. Share intelligence (with friendly countries). 6. Revise legislation to enable greater surveillance and action (against terrorists), subject to periodic renewal. 7. Actively pursue terrorists. 8. Do not release jailed terrorists. 9. Train special forces to fight terrorism. 10. Educate the public.

Personally, I have reservations against sanctions, which never seem to work. But the last chapter should be required reading for heads of government, including our own John Major, who opt for negotiations in preference to defeating terrorists.

Brian Crozier founded and was Director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict, 1970-79.

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By Jeremy Josephs
J. B. Tauris, £10.95
ISBN 1 85041 129 9

because it touched only the periphery of the Final Solution.

It is a well-argued book, flawed only by purple writing in the insufficiently edited case histories which interleave painstakingly researched historical chapters. This undermines the book's otherwise unimpeachable authority.

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Fine barrage from an artillery of words

Ian McIntyre finds that it is a good thing for even an educated man to read books of quotations

Emerson on immortality: "I notice that as soon as writers begin to quote, I hate quotations. Tell me what you know." Winston Churchill, looking back on his youth, thought differently: "Bartlett's Familiar Quotations is an admirable work, and I studied it intently." Bartlett was running the University Bookstore in Cambridge, Massachusetts, when his book first appeared in 1855. Now in its 16th edition — its Oxford rival is only in its fourth — it remains the standard against which to measure all new contenders.

The odd man out in this selection is *The Guinness Chronicle of the 20th Century in Quotations* by David Milsted (Guinness Publishing, £9.99; ISBN 0 85112 606 5) — a narrative of events as they unfold, told in the context of the words of the people who were involved in them. Somehow it doesn't quite work: the explanations are generally longer than the quotations and this creates a topsy-turvy effect, particularly as many of the quotes are notably unmemorable. Keating's Archives can breathe again.

The Oxford Dictionary of Political Quotations (OUP, £15.99; ISBN 0 19 863158 8), provides an agreeable pendant to the *Oxford Book of Political Anecdotes*. The editor, Anthony Jay, is slightly carried away when he compares Nigel Birch's *Last Leader* attack on Harold Macmillan in 1963 to the fatal thrust of Brutus's dagger, but his 4,000 quotations are a godsend to crossword junkies, browsers and grazers and political ghost-writers. Jay offers no instance of the wit or wisdom of the former Tory minister Kenneth Baker. For that we must turn to the *Chambers Dictionary of Quotations*, edited by Alison James (Chambers, £25; ISBN 0 550 21019 9), where we learn that in 1979 he said that, if Conservative backbenchers wanted to get on, they must find a foothold "in the narrow strip of land that lies between sycophancy and rebellion". We also learn that Baker was the book's political consultant. Not a role in which he seems to have over-extended himself — the note attached to one of Churchill's

sallies confuses Ernie Bevin with Nye Bevan.

Chambers claim to have cast their net exceptionally wide, their specialists including "activists, travellers, feminists and youth leaders". Whether the "truly international" nature of their coverage will be appreciated remains doubtful. I am naturally sorry to learn that the Syrian mystical philosopher Abu'l-Ala Al-Ma'arri (973-1058) was blinded by smallpox in childhood, but lines like "Consider every moment past! A thread from life's frayed mantle cast" did not send me scampering to his collected works. The Peruvian novelist José María Arguedas was also lucky to scrape in with "Where is the country, my friend? It is not in the heart or in the saliva." Perhaps Fidel Castro's speechwriters will work it in somewhere.

All credit to Chambers, however, for rehabilitating Dean Acheson,



Truman's aide, Dean Acheson: wit revived

President Truman's civilised and witty Secretary of State — he gets four patsy mentions in the latest *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* (OUP, £25; ISBN 0 19 860058 5), and Bartlett unaccountably ignores him completely. "A real Centaur," he said of President Johnson, "part

man, part horse's ass." I also liked his advice about the FBI's J. Edgar Hoover — "Trust him as much as you would a rattlesnake with a silence on its rattle".

That deserved a place in Jonathan Green's *Dictionary of Insulting Quotations* (Cassell, £16.99; ISBN 0 304 34590 3), although Green makes amends with Gore Vidal's elegant skewering of Andy Warhol — "the only genius with an IQ of 60". He includes Jonathan Miller's "the bionic plagiarist" (of Sir David Frost), but also pads shamelessly with chestnuts like "a nation of shopkeepers" and "sayings" like "That isn't a dog, that's a Fleming", which is apparently part of the folk wisdom of the Walltoons.

Des McHale claims for his *Wit* (Prion, £9.99; ISBN 1 85375 232 0) "a breadth and freshness that cannot be matched by the standard books of quotations." Idi Amin "I am still heavyweight champion of Uganda,

Nobody is willing to fight me." is certainly a new name, and so, to me, is Dave Dutton, represented by "Of course prostitutes have babies — where do you think traffic wardens come from?" Essentially a puerile of wisecracks, McHale doesn't burden us with sources, although it's good to learn that Churchill thought de Gaulle resembled a female llama surprised in her bath.

From the *Dictionary of Scottish Quotations*, edited by Angela Cran and James Robertson (Gaelic consultant John MacInnes, Mainstream Publishing, £20; ISBN 1 85158 812 4), I learn that Dame Barbara Cartland thinks the Scots are doing very well, but is saddened by their tendency to vote Labour: "I wrote to the Prime Minister and said, can't we do something about it?" The compilers of this substantial dictionary also have political concerns: their work, they feel, "is one more step in the reconstruction of an articulate, progressive, self-determining society".

Another ambition is "to open the

mouths of women made dumb by history", and this they achieve with a catholic range of entries, from the novelist Annie S. Swan to the missionary Mary Slessor. The psychiatrist Winifred Rushforth rates three entries, Janet Breadhead, executed for witchcraft in 1662, only one — the description of sexual intercourse with the Devil which she gave at her trial. (The editors' almost saintly sense of fairness moves them to record the late Nicholas Fairbairn's view of women MPs — "they are just cagnags, scribbles, old tattles".)

Football manager Bill Shankly forces his way in with "Me havin' no education, I had to use my brains". Sean Connery's entries make it clear he found another route to success: one of Billy Connolly's ("Braveheart is pure Australian shit") suggests that the comedian is a film critic *manqué*.

Kipling has a character who "wrapped himself in quotations — as a beggar would enfold himself in the purple of emperors". Enough imperial purple — and tartan — here to run up a wardrobe for every beggar in the land. And possibly a kiln for Bernard Levin.



Marble terms of figures from Classical mythology and history along the Great Axis of the garden of Versailles, circa 1690; from left to right: Ceres, Hercules, Achelous, Pandora, Hermes, a satyr and bacchante, Diogenes and Plato

From fertile France

Here are three new books about very different kinds of French art. But would the subject of *Georges de La Tour and his World* have recognised himself as a French artist? I mention this because La Tour, masterly painter of Caravaggesque scenes of gaming and candlelit devotional pictures, has been regarded as one of the glories of French 17th-century art ever since his rediscovery at the beginning of this century. Yet as the authors of this beautiful book (which accompanies an unmissable exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum in New York) are at pains to emphasise, La Tour was a Lorrainer. For most of his life Lorraine was an independent duchy squeezed between France and the German states and had its own distinctive artistic culture, looking as much to The Netherlands as to Paris for inspiration.

Marc Jordon
GEORGES DE LA TOUR AND HIS WORLD
By Philip Conisbee
Yale, £30
ISBN 0 300 06948 0
VERSAILLES
The History of the Gardens and their Sculpture
By Stephane Pincas
Thames & Hudson, £48
ISBN 0 500 07701 8
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By Bruce Laughton
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ISBN 0 300 06945 6

the Baptist, came to light as recently as 1994, while the Met's own *Fortune-teller* has been accused of being a modern fake. Such technical and historical small print is not always appealing to non-professionals. The book, however, makes these issues not only accessible but positively enjoyable. If you cannot get to the show put *Georges de La Tour and his World* at the top of your Christmas stocking list. By contrast, nothing could be more emblematic of metropolitan France than Versailles and its gardens. We English are perhaps better at appreciating the individualistic and quirky side of French art, instinctively preferring the simplicity and "authenticity" of La Tour to the showy and de-personalised display of Louis XIV. Even such a quintessentially grand siècle personality as the Duc de Saint-Simon criticised the folly of trying to build the biggest formal garden in the world, complete with innumerable

fountains, lakes and cascades, on a chalky plain conspicuously lacking a water supply. Yet done it was. And as Stephane Pincas's *Versailles: The History of the Gardens and their Sculpture* underlines with its enticing combination of specially commissioned photographs, old paintings, plans and engravings, the magnificence we can still enjoy on a day trip from Paris is only a pale reflection of what Louis XIV, his gardener Le Notre and his artistic impresario Charles Le Brun intended. It is not just that all growing things tend towards decay, but that the garden's creators were constantly striving for new and grander effects. The fountains and myriad other forms of sculpture that are the real *raison d'être* of this hand-somely produced book were constantly being added to, moved, painted or gilded, replaced in more expensive materials or shifted to other royal parks. Pincas succeeds

in giving an impression of this dynamic and in giving a sense of the animated and fantastic character given, under the *ancien régime*, to the stiffly clipped groves of box and hornbeam, the heaps of marble and bronze.

By day the play of light on sheets of jets of water and by night torch-lit festivities with bankrupting fireworks displays softened and melted this hard-edged scene into an opulent fairyland which mesmerised the Sun King's courtiers and foreign princes alike. It is ironic, as Pincas points out, that even before the French Revolution Louis XIV's ill-fated descendants were redesigning parts of the ultimate *jardin à la française* in the deceptively artless and newly chic English style. Moving to the 19th century, no one would turn to the art of Honoré Daumier for uplift, specialising as he did in the more desolate aspect of con-

temporary urban life. His hatched-faced lawyers, impoverished litigants, top-hatted rentiers and worn-out washerwomen are familiar from the hundreds of lithographs he produced for satirical journals.

Much less familiar are the paintings and watercolours with which he attempted to capture the attention of a more sophisticated market of dealers and collectors. In *Honoré Daumier* Bruce Laughton has written the first modern account of all the artist's strands of endeavour. But though this useful book is accessibly written and attractively illustrated, it is descriptive rather than analytical in its approach. The result is that it misses an interesting opportunity to probe Daumier's reasons for wanting to move from the news-stand to the Salon. Could it have been that in an age in which the main political slogan was "enrichissez-vous" Daumier the social satirist yearned for some of the prestige and wealth that went with the gold-framed easel painting? If so he failed, being unable to resist the temptation to satirise in paint the collectors he most wanted to impress.

An unwelcome change in the weather

Stephen Schneider is one of the best-known American proponents of the idea of global warming caused by human activities — the greenhouse effect. He has carried out research at the United States National Centre for Atmospheric Research, and spread the word to a broad public through television appearances and a sequence of great, fat books. But this book is different. The latest in the "Science Masters" series, the format forces Schneider to present his ideas in its entirety, since the Earth formed 4.5 billion years ago — as accessibly as possible in less than 200 pages. It has to be said that the result is not the most entertaining or easiest read in the series, but it just may be the most important, providing a sober perspective on environmental changes that will shape all our lives in the 21st century. Sobriety, indeed, seems to be Schneider's watchword. He eschews extravagant claims, and offers a serious and balanced view, covering the co-evolution of climate and life, ice ages, and a clear explanation of how computer modelling of climate works and why the greenhouse effect forecasts should be taken seriously.

The facts are dramatic enough to need no embellishment (although I would have liked to see them supported by rather more accessible diagrams than the ones plucked from the pages of learned journals that appear here). We learn why (probably) the Earth was so warm in the time of the dinosaurs, and how even the lower end of the range of greenhouse effect forecasts project a warming in the 21st century ten times faster than anything that has occurred naturally for millions of years.

In this and other examples, Schneider meets critics of those concerned about global warming head-on, and demolishes their case that there is no cause for alarm. He describes the pattern of climatic changes around the world linked with a growing greenhouse effect as a "climatic fingerprint," and shows how this pattern is tantalisingly close to the pattern of regional and seasonal changes that the globe has experienced since 1960. Finally, he offers a plan of action to minimise the impact of the climatic changes that are already in the pipeline — much of it basic common sense, but

John Gribbin
LABORATORY EARTH

By Stephen H. Schneider
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.99
ISBN 0 297 81644 6



Hotting up: desert blooms

seemingly all of it in need of repeating as we continue to release the gases that cause the warming at an increasing rate.

It may be a bit worthy, and it may be a bit dull; but it is well worth having alongside you to check the real facts the next time some spokesman for the coal industry tries to pull the wool over our eyes with claims that (a) the greenhouse effect doesn't exist and (b) if it does exist, it is a good thing.

John Gribbin is co-author (with Mary Gribbin) of *Watching the Weather*, published by Constable, priced £14.95.

Great change out of small

The past may be another country, but are the 1950s alien territory so soon? To revisit the era is to be astonished at how far away the Britain where many of us spent our childhood now seems. This is history, not the histrionics suggested by the title; and good history at that. There are really two books here, each the product of scholarship, each revealing — even startling — and each of them very readable indeed. Higgins has studied the work of the Wolfenden Committee in the 1950s, preparatory to its famous report leading to the partial legalisation of male homosexuality a decade later. In the second half of *Heterosexual Dictatorship* he has assembled a series of snapshots which show the conditions for gay men in Fifties Britain. To speak of snapshots is not to suggest a perfunctory or slapdash approach. Higgins is an historian whose thorough and careful judgment shines through. His research has been intensive. His method — to proceed by detailed inspection of case histories, of newspaper headlines and of prevailing attitudes — is revealing. He demonstrates by textual analysis the growing obsession through the Fifties

Matthew Parris
HETEROSEXUAL DICTATORSHIP
Male Homosexuality in Postwar Britain
By Patrick Higgins
Fourth Estate, £18.99
ISBN 1 85702 355 2

of Britain's popular newspapers with homosexual offences, combined with a disinclination to name the practice.

In the *News of the World* between 1932 and 1959 he finds hardly half a dozen uses of the word "homosexual" — the paper's court reporters hovering gingerly round the flame yet drawn to it again and again. Higgins sees this as evidence that gay men faced a conspiracy of denial, and in a way that is true. They did. In the tabloid press more recently, denial has given way to abuse and you will not find *The Sun* lacking in references to "poofs" throughout the Eighties.

But, beneath tabloid euphemism and tabloid abuse, something was happening which I believe to be more significant than the way journalists labelled homosexuality. They were talking about it, almost for the first time. The



Crowd control, Fifties-style: evidence of a hidden world?

Sun has done more for homosexual emancipation by a thousand shocked revelations about the lives of the famous and the humble than *The Guardian* ever did by a score of right-on essays about sexuality. I doubt whether Higgins would accept this. It is a measure of his professionalism that he can offer so fair-minded, comprehensive and enlightening a study alongside a personal thesis which is kept quite separate and which is (in my view) profoundly wrong. His view is illustrated in his

final judgment on Wolfenden's work: "The path from Wolfenden through the parliamentary debates of the 1950s is a false trail, ending in a symbol, a piece of legislation which did nothing to promote tolerance or equality for homosexual men. Neither did it address the sorts of legal harassment faced by many homosexuals in Britain at this time."

There is a kind of false consciousness, to which I think Higgins has succumbed, which may arise in the later stages of any process of hu-

man reform. It involves a denial that early efforts by early reformers had any real legitimacy within the movement. To say so is to make a mistake: that of viewing the attitudes of another generation through the lens of our own, and finding even the reformers preposterously timid. Of course they are! Of course, to Higgins or me, those who, like Margaret Thatcher and Keith Joseph, voted consistently for homosexual reform on the basis that homosexuality was an unfortunate affliction but not one which should be punished, now appear illiberal. But in the context of their times they were brave and forward-thinking. Wilberforce's early proposals hardly began to address the problem of slavery. Lincoln's personal attitude towards the negro race was grotesque.

Patrick Higgins's exposé of the workings, internal wranglings and witness statements of the Wolfenden Committee is absorbing. His access to confidential papers has been unprecedented and he has not abused it: his painstaking study of the committee's work deserves to become a classic for this alone. His impression that Sir John Wolfenden was a cold and ambitious man with an eye to the main chance rings true. His description of the committee, which has "skilful operators with a wide experience of British institutions which gave them a natural sympathy for authority, an ability to turn a blind eye at the appropriate moment and to avoid confrontations,"

sounds accurate; but what, I believe, he fails to notice is that these men and their work — ciphers, if you like — were a symptom of underlying pressure on a sexual rigidity which, even in the 1950s, was coming under intolerable strain. In however a confused and tentative way, the Home Office and the British Establishment recognised that and Wolfenden (perhaps subliminally) knew it too and knew what he had to do.

This is not to be regretted. It was not a dead end. It is not enough (though it is revealing) for Higgins to record that changing one bit of the law changed little in the immediate sub-culture of practising homosexuals in the Fifties. More timid souls existed, millions of us. For me, as a student in 1969, the knowledge that consenting adult homosexuality had ceased to be a crime said something to me about the future.

Self-confident in 1996, we can look back on those early changes as paltry, and Wolfenden's work as palliative. But it was the beginning. The unlikely coalition of tentative free-thinkers — Nicholas Ridley, Roy Jenkins, the Liberal Party and, yes, even the unlovable John Wolfenden, among them — who so plainly irritate Higgins but whose contribution he faithfully records, did matter.

Without meaning to, and because his book is so carefully researched, set forth so honestly and narrated so well, Higgins has paid them tribute.

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Smoking and drinking come under attack

Inflight alcohol can lead to anger

By FARROL KAHN

THE recent case of the millionaire who was tied up with her dog's leash by an American Airlines captain demonstrates how determined airlines are to curb drunken passengers. Yet alcohol is readily available and its abuse is one of the most common inflight problems.

The main reason for excessive drinking is fear of flying, according to Dr Erikur Armanson, a psychiatrist at the University of Iceland. "I know of passengers who begin to drink at 6am on a flight when it is customary for them to drink only socially in the evening," he says.

There are two kinds of drunken passengers, those in economy and those in first class. Those in economy tend to become aggressive, particularly when they are in a group. Because of the cramped conditions they feel over-crowded and tend to quarrel among themselves.

The inebriated passengers in first class are more difficult because they feel threatened by their lack of control over their surroundings. On the ground, they are in charge of every minute of their time.

Under the influence of alcohol they can go a little crazy. And unlike the people in economy they have power to wield, because of their wealth or position or both. They can sue and are not afraid of big corporations. They may also have a good case of negligence on the ground that the airlines have not informed passengers of the increased potency of drugs and alcohol in the air.

This is caused by the interaction between the physiological stresses of flight, particularly lack of oxygen, and medicines. As the former alters the actions of any drugs that affect the brain will be altered, too.

In the case of the American millionaire, she took a sleeping tablet. This can cause memory loss or antisocial behaviour. The outcome of her lawsuit will set an important precedent and could change the attitude of airlines towards drinking on board. They could start by informing passengers about the effect of alcohol in the air before they start restraining them, particularly those in first class.

© The writer is director of the Aviation Health Institute (01865 739681)

Insurer says no to heavy drinkers

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

A LEADING travel insurance company said yesterday that it would reject claims from Christmas holidaymakers who have too much to drink.

Sarah Ioannides, marketing manager of Home and Overseas, Britain's biggest travel insurance company, said that holidaymakers risked more than a hangover from drinking. "There's nothing wrong with a bit of drinking on holiday," she said, "but it is worth remembering that if you lose something in the resort while you are drunk, your travel insurance may not cover you. Insurers cannot be in the business of protecting people who cannot take responsibility for themselves."

Her comments come after an NOP survey for the company revealed that more than half drank more abroad than at home and a third admit to becoming "tipsy" most evenings. Nearly 70 per cent of men and 55 per cent of women drank at lunchtime when abroad but only 37 per cent of men admit to being unable to hold their drink at night, compared with 63 per cent of women who said they felt tipsy.

Doctors also warned drinkers in all-inclusive resorts that they could be in serious danger of wrecking their health and urged tour operators to curb the amount of free drink on offer, after another survey showed that the average amount drunk in an all-inclusive resort was seven times the recommended level.

The survey, carried out in 50 resorts in the Dominican Re-

public, Barbados, Jamaica and Mexico, showed that the average customer drank 25 units a day, the equivalent of 12.5 pints of beer.

Tour operators rejected the findings as "nonsense". A Thomson spokeswoman said: "The resorts could not stay open, let alone make a profit, at that kind of consumption rate. We find that on the first day of a holiday guests might go slightly over the top because they suddenly realise everything is free. But the last thing they want is to wake up with a headache every day."

Professor Martin Plant, director of the alcohol research group, was horrified by the findings in the survey, carried out by Sunset Holidays, part of the Flying Colours Leisure Group. He said: "People drinking these amounts of alcohol are putting themselves and other people at risk. It is grossly irresponsible of the tour companies to go to the extremes they do to make unlimited alcohol available."

A spokesman for Sandals, the leading all-inclusive group, said there was no evidence to suggest that alcohol consumption was as high as was indicated.

Airtours said: "There is some onus on the individual to decide how much they should eat, how long to stay in the sun and how much to drink."

Sunset Holidays, which carried out the survey of tourists and hoteliers, insisted: "We do not recommend or encourage anyone to drink to the point where they endanger their own health."

Restaurants ban smoking

SMOKERS are finding it increasingly difficult to book a restaurant or hotel that is prepared to accept them and their habit, according to the British Hospitality Association. Harvey Elliott writes.

More than half the 700 hotels surveyed by the association said that they no longer allowed smoking in their restaurants and a further 30 per cent ban smoking in part of their restaurant. Nearly half of non-smoking bedrooms. Only two hotels said that the restrictions had affected business adversely and 16 per cent said it had made business better.

Jeremy Logie, the chief executive of the BHA, the body that represents the hotel, catering and restaurant industry, says: "It is clear the industry recognises that smoking in restaurants and other public places has become a very pressing issue. Most members regard the trend towards a total restriction on smoking, or at least providing a non-smoking area in restaurants, as inevitable." A growing number of hotels are even banning smoking in the lounge or bar. But some hoteliers now believe that the clampdown on smoking may have gone too far and are seeking ways of enabling smokers and non-smokers to live and eat in harmony. Most believe that the industry

should regulate itself rather than wait for the Government to pass draconian legislation which, according to one member who replied to the survey, would be "the nanny police state gone mad".

Mr Logie says: "Adequate ventilation will also provide a smoke-free atmosphere; where there is good ventilation, a restriction on smoking may not be necessary. It is good for business to provide an environment that pleases all guests. Most hotels appear to have taken the view that a restriction on smoking is the way forward, but if there is adequate ventilation, non-smoking guests need not be troubled by smoking at all. It is a matter of trying to find the best solution to a sensitive problem."

© The tourism industry could generate 310,000 new jobs within the next ten years as investment in leisure facilities soars by more than 32 per cent, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council. Sir Colin Marshall, the smoking vice-chairman, said: "Travel and tourism is a key to future economic growth. The forecasts demonstrate that the industry is a vitally important part of the UK economy and will become even more central to broad economic policies relating to trade and infrastructure investment over the next ten years."

Adventure specialists widen their horizons

By TONY DAWE

CAVORTING with hundreds of killer whales in a Norwegian fjord, searching for cheetahs in an African game park and exploring the wildlife of the Amazon rainforests are among the widest-ever range of nature tours being offered to British holidaymakers next year.

The latest brochures from companies including Naturetrek and Discover the World feature new activities, both peaceful and energetic, in new destinations.

To mark its tenth anniversary next year, Naturetrek is offering tours to 46 countries, from Alaska to Zimbabwe. Many operators are offering discounts for bookings before the end of this year with Encounter Overland promising savings of about £100 on tours to Central and South America.

The demand for more unusual nature holidays reflects the growing trend among Britons to forgo the traditional sun, sand and sea packages, and is overtaking interest in simple adventure trips. Companies such as Earthwatch, which offer the chance to participate in environmental and ecological projects, also report a rise in demand.

David Mills, who runs Naturetrek, says: "We now offer a choice of more than a hundred different birdwatching, botanical and natural-history departures. These include spring tours to southern Portugal, an Easter break to search for owls in Finland and a winter week in Jordan."

A botanical tour of South Africa's Cape and Namaqualand region at the height of the floral season and a trek across China and Tibet in search of giant pandas and other rare creatures are featured in the new brochure, alongside more familiar holidays to African game parks and the Kanha tiger reserve in India.

Prices range from £1,400 to £4,000 a person and European trips cost from £890. Each tour is led by an expert ornithologist or botanist. Some are small, between six and 16. The company is offering discounts to regular customers.

The new brochure from



British tourists are giving up sun-and-sand holidays and going in search of the wild.

Discover the World also features a wide range of escorted group tours, including a weekend with killer whales in Norway and a week following wolves through Quebec's spectacular Jacques-Cartier park.

For the less adventurous, the company offers a choice of three independent short

breaks exploring the French Pyrenees, Spain's Pico de Aneto and the Abruzzo national park in Italy. Flights, car hire and accommodation can be arranged and prices start from £325 a person.

Among early booking savings offered by Encounter Overland are £100 off a three-week expedition

through Mexico, Belize and Guatemala, and a similar discount on three-week tours of Bolivia, which take in 15,000ft mountains and steamy jungles. The discounted prices are £1,050 and £1,160 a person, excluding flights.

© Naturetrek 01942 733051, Discover the World 01752 638262, Encounter Overland 01753 70 8851

Historic sites open on New Year's Day

FIFTY of Britain's most historic sites and homes, including Stonehenge, Whitby Abbey and Dover Castle, will open for the first time on New Year's Day, English Heritage, which runs the sites, has decided that visitors should no longer be denied the chance of seeing them on one of the most popular days for outings.

The list includes the dramatic ruins of Tintagel Castle, Cornwall, the small fortified Tudor manor of Stokesay Castle, Shropshire, and the superb Roman villa at Lullingstone in Kent.

In London, several of the capital's best-known houses will open for the first time, including Kenwood on Hampstead Heath, and the Ranger's House, Blackheath. Most of the properties will open from 10am or noon until 4pm.

Head start

THE curiously named Hangover Cottage in Burnham Over Staithe, Norfolk, is still available for rent for £298 for new year's week — December 28 until January 4.

The five-bed cottage is one of the 4,000 properties on the books of Country Holidays (01282-445069), many of which are still available for a Christmas or new year break.

City success

THE spectacular growth of London City Airport shows no sign of abating. The Italian business airline AzzurriAir is the latest to fly in, with a new twice-daily service to Bergamo in northern Italy.

The number of passengers using the Docklands airport rose by 56 per cent in November to reach a record 81,366.

Richard Gooding, the managing director, says the airport, once aviation's biggest white elephant, is now Europe's fastest-growing airport.

Ride the Nile

MENCAP is organising a fundraising holiday in March, which involves a 500km ride along the Nile from Luxor to Aswan and back in five days.

All flights, food, accommodation on board a Nile cruiser and mountain bikes will be provided but participants will be charged a £200 registration fee and will be expected to raise a minimum of £1,750 in sponsorship money for the charity's Blue Sky appeal.

Fair-weather golf deal

By DAVID CHURCHILL

TURNBERRY, the Scottish golfing hotel, is offering to refund the cost of accommodation and dinner for guests if bad weather means they cannot play on the hotel's Ailsa golf course.

The guarantee, available until the end of February for guests staying on a special weekend package, is aimed at easing fears for first time golfers that the Scottish wea-

ther often prevents play. Guests have to book at least 48 hours in advance to take advantage of the deal.

"Because of the warm Gulf Stream air, we are rarely in a position where the golf course is closed," says Christopher Rouse, general manager of Turnberry, who yesterday was named Hotelier of the Year by *Caterer & Hotelkeeper* magazine. Mr

Rouse, 55, has been with Japanese-owned Turnberry since the late Seventies, but has also worked at Scotland's other two great golfing hotels — Gleneagles and the Old Course Hotel, St Andrews.

Jonathan Thornton, managing director of the Old Course Hotel, claims that his guests also have a good chance of play during the winter. "The advantage of a links course, and we have five surrounding the hotel, is that it is generally playable all year round," he says. The sand base for a links course, as well as the drying sea winds, ensures good drainage.

Both hotels are also benefiting from a booming demand for golfing holidays. "There is a lot of exposure on television and we are finding that a large element of demand comes from beginners or those with little golfing experience," says Mr Rouse. About a third of Turnberry's guests come from America, although 40 per cent are from Britain.

Britain's biggest golfing hotel operator is the Marriott chain, part of Whitbread Hotels, which has seven hotels and country clubs with 11 golf courses between them, four to European Tour standard.



Hotelier of the Year Christopher Rouse, of Turnberry

Air miles schemes 'distort the market'

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

NEIL KINNOCK, the European Transport Commissioner, will be told next week that airline loyalty schemes — regarded as an important perk enabling millions of business travellers to qualify for free leisure flights — are an unfair distortion of competition.

"The campaign to abolish frequent-flyer benefit schemes is to be taken to Brussels as pressure mounts for individual travellers to be forced to hand their accumulated points to employers, or for tax to be made payable on the benefits. It is calculated that frequent-flyer programmes now cost airlines so much to administer that air fares could be reduced by up to 10 per cent if they did not exist."

Stelios Haji-Ioannou, owner of the rapidly expanding cut-price airline EasyJet, will tell Mr Kinnock that bigger airlines are able to operate complex loyalty programmes aimed at individual travellers while smaller airlines offer lower fares but cannot afford to offer similar schemes.

He says: "The frequent-flyer programmes are actually an incentive to spend more while

the company which employs the traveller may be trying to cut costs. We have to raise awareness of what is happening, to explain to companies how they are losing money and, if possible, to have the schemes banned."

Many large British companies already try to persuade employees to hand over the benefits rather than use them themselves.

Kevin Watts, the secretary of the Business Travel Liaison Group, which represents 25 of the biggest companies, says: "For those in the public sector, there is a very real moral problem in accepting incentive schemes."

Mr Watts, who also works for the British Council, says that although ministers and civil servants are forbidden from accruing the "miles" while on business, many large companies regard the benefits as a way of keeping staff happy. He says: "We hope the authorities will become involved and tax the vouchers even before they are redeemed. If it becomes a taxable benefit, the bubble will quickly burst."

Steve Keenan on the competition between tunnel and ferries

Le Shuttle restarts Channel rivalry

COMPETITION for the Christmas shopping rush to France intensified this week as Channel Tunnel shuttles restarted service three weeks after the blaze.

The tunnel is trying to win back customers lost to ferry rivals in the lucrative pre-Christmas rush and Le Shuttle has reopened 24-hour day and tax-free shops at its terminals. But Le Shuttle, while busy yesterday, is able to run at only half its normal capacity with three trains every two hours. Two an hour will operate from December 30.

The resumption of cross-Channel competition coincides with ferry rivals P&O and Stena rethinking strategy after the surprise referral of their proposed merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

While an MMC decision is due

on March 6, the two companies have been forced to reconsider plans and will publish separate brochures for next year within the next two weeks.

P&O and Brittany have also scrapped plans to merge on western Channel routes for next year because of the MMC referral, leaving Brittany free to be first to publish next year's fares this week. But the twists in the future of cross-Channel travel have been put aside temporarily as Le Shuttle slowly tries to build up custom and services over Christmas.

The company has scrapped its turn-up-and-go service, demanding that customers make reservations. Those already holding tickets must also call Le Shuttle Call Centre (0990 353535) for a new ticket stipulating time and date of departure. But it has not dropped

prices, with brochure fares still applying. A standard return costs £129 for daytime departures, a five-day ticket £69 and a day trip £59. Departures between 10pm and 6am range between £10 to £20 cheaper.

The day trip prices are virtually treble those of P&O, Hoverspeed and Stena and six times that of Sea France, the rival on the Dover-Folkestone to Calais route. Le Shuttle is also missing out on the Christmas coach market, with services not expected to resume until early next month.

When releasing fares for next year Brittany Ferries' operations director David Longden said 16 million people made return journeys across the Channel this year, with a quarter travelling through the tunnel. Anticipating the green light by the MMC for a

P&O/Stena merger — with conditions — he said the move would help to remove the one-third excess ferry capacity he believed was still on the Channel.

Brittany has reduced prices by 10 per cent for next year on its four western Channel routes. "Add inflation of three per cent, so in real terms prices are 13 per cent cheaper than this year," Mr Longden said.

Merger talks between Brittany and P&O lasted three months. But differences in culture, coupled with the MMC referral on a Stena/P&O merger, have scuppered any deal for next year.

"The basic principles of a deal remain but the timing has slowed down. At the moment we are working independently," Ian Carruthers, Brittany's managing director, said.

Cities unite in tourism drive

By TONY DAWE

THE battle to persuade tourists that cities such as Derby, Leeds and Stoke-on-Trent are attractive destinations for short-break holidays will be intensified at a meeting of travel bosses next week.

Their aim is to spread the message to 500,000 people in Britain that a group of 11 fashionable cities are full of famous museums, historic sites and pleasant shops and can offer bargain deals in a wide range of hotels.

Derby's Georgian gems and breathtaking cathedral, the new Royal Armouries Museum and well-known shops in Leeds and the pottery museums, shops and tours in the five towns that comprise Stoke are some of the assets to be highlighted.

"The one thing they all suffer from is not being taken seriously

as tourist cities, but visitors would not believe how much there is to do," says Steve Jardine, one of the marketing men behind the Great British Cities consortium.

It has produced a 36-page brochure listing the attractions and hotel deals — with savings of up to 70 per cent — available this winter. At Tuesday's meeting their tourism officials will discuss a simpler brochure, which can be targeted at a wider audience.

"People want more information on fewer cities, so we plan to streamline the system to catch people's attention and then feed them regularly updated details on the places which most interest them," Mr Jardine says.

All the cities boast plenty of accommodation from top hotels to comfortable B&B properties, which are kept busy for much of

the year with conferences, business people and summer visitors. In Stoke, for example, many rooms are taken from spring to late autumn by families visiting Alton Towers.

"When the theme park closes, the hotels and the city become quieter," says Jane Randall, Stoke's tourism officer. "But the rest of our attractions stay open and are more comfortable to visit."

The group of cities includes three in Scotland — Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow. "Instead of continuing to promote themselves individually, the cities have joined forces to give them more teeth in a competitive market," says Ian Weightman, spokesman for the consortium. "London is very powerful but, by pooling their efforts, these cities can lobby with a stronger voice."

the noise
disconter

EasyJet
Regency
Glen Mills
Bristol
Birmingham
London
Manchester
Newcastle
Nottingham
Preston
Sheffield
Southampton
Stoke-on-Trent
Tyneside
Wolverhampton
Wrexham

The noise of discontent

WHY IS the world's biggest industry so deeply unpopular? Why do those who travel either for commercial or leisure reasons hate almost everything to do with the whole business? And why do those whose livelihood depends on the tourism industry so despise it?

Business travellers complain about the higher prices. Package tourists hate having other people around to share their holiday resort. Everyone who uses a hub airport moans about the queues to check in, the boredom of the final departure lounge, the vast shopping areas and the long walks to the gates.

Residents of pretty villages, seaside resorts, country towns and historic cities grumble about the floods of tourists who trample over "their" lands. And the millions who live anywhere near a flight path are incandescent with rage that their sleep is disturbed by the ever-growing number of aircraft.

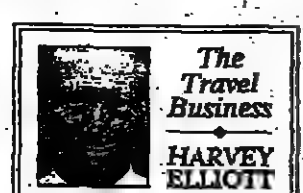
It is a paradox that those who grumble the most are also often first to complain if they cannot get their favourite business-class seat, are asked to pay more for an unspilt resort, forced to use a regional airport, lose income when tourists do not come, and cannot fly from where they like, to where they want, when they need to go.

Despite all the public relations work by airlines and the travel industry, the industry is still regarded as the villain — especially since the airlines launched their legal battle over government plans to curb airport noise.

However strong and logical the arguments of people in the industry, their critics already command the high ground. By portraying themselves as innocents being battered nightly by the rapacious airlines, the objectors are bound to win the emotional, if not the legal, battle.

Confident anti-noise protesters, such as Dermot Cox, say that "they will learn eventually that they have to work with local communities rather than confront them at every turn".

Last summer the Depart-



ment of Transport issued new rules that would have cut by three decibels the amount of permitted noise made by aircraft on take-off from the three main London airports. At first sight, this may not seem much, but it means that even British Airways may have to get rid of its 14 remaining Boeing 747-100 jumbo jets.

The noise protesters wanted more. But despite the certain knowledge that public opinion was automatically going to be ranged on the side of the little person trying to get some sleep while airlines hurried ever increasing numbers of nerve-shattering aircraft above his or her head, IATA decided to take their case to court. The new noise limits, originally due to come in on January 1 but now delayed until after a judicial review, would have meant that hundreds of aircraft could not have taken off from Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted without first offloading cargo, fuel, or passengers. The world's airlines say they were in the middle of international negotiations to reduce noise. Yet suddenly the British Government decided on a unilateral move that might not, the airlines protest, have had any noticeable effect on the local communities anyway.

AVIATION is an international business and must surely be subject to international rules. Yet the many millions living near big airports must have a right to undisturbed sleep.

The Government knew it could rely on automatic public support for any move which appeared to get tough with airlines. The fact that it may have acted illegally or even irrationally in doing so is an argument which no public relations executive would relish being asked to adduce.

Over to the judges.

Bargains of the week — dog-sledge rides in Finland to José Carreras in Milan

LAS VEGAS for a week's Unjet fly-drive holiday for £179 a person from Co-op Travelcare. Departure is from Gatwick on Monday. Details: 0161-827 1030.

ESCAPE the pre-Christmas rush by spending four nights in Istanbul for £195 a person with Accommodation Overseas. Flights from Gatwick and Manchester on December 18. Details: 0181-977 2984.

HUSKY-DOG sledge rides and fishing through a hole in the ice are included in Aerosep's holiday from December 19 to 23 in Karelia, Finland. Accommodation is in cottages on the shores of Lake Pielinen. Prices are £599 adult and £399 child. Details: 01608 650103.

SKIING bargains are available from Neilson Ski. Prices from £199 for a week's self-catering in Brides-les-Bains, France, flying from Manchester on December 21, to £329 for a week's half-board at Pas de la Casa, Andorra, flying from Birmingham. Details: 0113-239 4555.

PICASSO and the portrait exhibition in Paris are included in weekend breaks from Cox & Kings. The £218-a-person price includes BA flights, tickets to the exhibition and bed and breakfast. Details: 0171-873 3000.

TOURS of remote Thailand over Christmas are available from Explore Worldwide. A 17-day trekking holiday costs £580 and 16 days exploring temples, river travel and the jungle costs £660. Both leave Bangkok on December 21; flights extra. Details: 01252 319448.

MADEIRA for Christmas is available at a saving of £130 a person from Cadogan Holidays with an eight-night bed and breakfast holiday at a four-star hotel now costing £499. Details: 01703 332661.

SAVINGS of £290 for a fortnight's half-board at Africana Sea Lodge, Mombasa, with flights from Gatwick and Manchester on December 29. The new price from Tropical Places is £769 a person. Details: 01342 825123.

NEW YEAR'S Day bargains to Cyprus from Portland Direct with a fortnight's self-catering from £165. Flights from Gatwick, Birmingham and Manchester. Details: 0990 002200.

FUERTEVENTURA from £191 for a week's self-catering with flights from Gatwick and Manchester on January 8 and 15 from Inspirations. Details: 01293 822244.

JOSE CARRERAS at La Scala, Milan, is featured in a three-night break from JMB Travel for £619 from January 11. Flights from Heathrow and bed and breakfast in a three-star hotel. Details: 01905 425628.

NILE and beyond 15-day tour leaving Heathrow on January 12 is available for £650 from Gueba Expeditions. Journey through Egypt with a camel safari, hotel for three nights and camp the rest. Details: 01373 826611.



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AIR UK has the ultimate seat sale. Between January 6 and March 31, it is charging a flat fare of £35 single from London to Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, Rotterdam, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness or Newcastle. A fare of £49 single applies from London to Copenhagen, Düsseldorf, Florence, Hamburg, Milan, Munich and Zürich. Book 14 days ahead and no later than January 22. Details: 0345 666777.

THE RIPOSTE from Luton-based Debonair is a "two's company" fare for passengers travelling between today and December 18 and January 8 and February 28. A passenger flying return to Rome, Barcelona, Madrid, Copenhagen, Düsseldorf and Munich can take along a companion for a flat £50. Book before Saturday. Details: 0500 146300.

LUPUS Travel has fares to South Africa, Asia and Latin America flying Alitalia from January 1. Typical fares are £492 for Johannesburg, £540 for Hong Kong, £524 for Rio de Janeiro and £601 Buenos Aires. Details: 0171-306 3000.

EMIRATES Air, based in Dubai, has extended its free ticket offer to include most of its destinations. Business-class passengers flying to the Gulf, Africa, Asia and Australia receive a free and transferable economy-class ticket for use at a later date. Details: 0171-808 0808.

FETC has big savings on direct scheduled flights to Singapore with return tickets from London or Manchester costing £384 and £454 respectively. Details: 0171-414 8808.

FERRIES

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A **POST-CHRISTMAS** break is available through Scandinavian Seaways. Two nights on board a ferry departing Harwich, and two nights on shore in Copenhagen, will cost from £173 a person for departures on December 27 and 29. Details: 0990 333111.

RED FUNNEL has launched its new holiday programme, offering two nights' bed and breakfast on the Isle of Wight from £42 a person, including return ferry from Southampton to Cowes. The offer is based on two people travelling. Details: 01703 333811.

SWANSEA Cork Ferries has launched its 1997 fares brochure. Crossings cost from £99 one-way for a car and up to five passengers in low season to £185 in peak. A midweek fare, Mondays to Thursdays, returning the same day, costs from £155 return. Details: 01792 456116.

SEA FRANCE has a ski ferry package to include Dover-Calais crossing, winter sports insurance and motorway breakdown service. A six-day ticket costs £90, nine days £135 and 17 days £145 for a car plus two passengers. Valid until April 30. Details: 0990 711711.

BRITANNIA Ferries has introduced three new price bands for next year. Sample prices: Portsmouth-Caen in May £240, in August £260, for a car and two adults. Details: 0990 360360.

HOTELS

FOUR nights for the price of three is on offer from Hilton National until the end of February. Prices range from £76 to £144 a person for a four-night stay and include buffet breakfast. Details: 0800 856 8000.

UNLIMITED golf is available on the two 18-hole courses at the Five Lakes hotel and country club near Maldon in Essex over Christmas and the new year. The four-night package costs from £370 a person full board, with children sharing their parents' room at a rate of £180 a child. Details: 01621 868 888.

A **CUT-PRICE** romantic package is offered by the Redcliffe Place country house hotel, near Uckfield, East Sussex. For £150 a couple, subject to availability, the price includes champagne on arrival, dinner and breakfast. Details: 01825 750581.

BROWN'S Hotel in London is offering 30 per cent discounts from January 1 until February 28. Prices from £158 a night for a single room and £175 a night for a double, and there are also special shopping privileges at local shops. Details: 0171-493 6020.

A **DOUBLE** room at the Hyde Park Hotel in London's Knightsbridge, opposite Harvey Nichols, costs £190 a night, plus VAT, from Sunday until January 4. Details: 0171-235 2000.

THE SAVOY Group's London restaurants have a special £9-a-head menu from January 2 to 31. The Brasserie St Quentin, the Grill St Quentin and Simpson's-in-the-Strand are offering a two-course lunch or dinner. Details: Brasserie, 0171-589 8005; Grill, 0171-581 8377; Simpson's, 0171-836 9112.

THE CLARENCE Hotel in Dublin has a two-night winter break until March 31 at IR£149 a person, available either midweek or at weekends. Details: 00 3531 6709000.

THE LIBERTEL Group of 28 Paris hotels, all either two or three-star properties, has cut winter rates by 20 per cent on average, with prices from Fr350 to Fr730 a room a night. Details: 0800 895 950.

VISIT friends and relatives in Glasgow on New Year's Eve and stay at the four-star Carrick Hotel in the heart of the city. Price, through GoldenRail, is £32.50 a person a night between December 29 and January 3. Details: Golden Rail 01904 638 973.

SUMMIT International Hotels is offering discounts of up to 55 per cent off normal rates at its 85-member hotels until February 28. Rates include £99 a night at London's Lancaster Hotel and include room upgrade and restaurant discounts. Details: 0800 556555.

THE SHERATON Grand Hotel, in Edinburgh, is offering three nights for £140 a person based on double occupancy until March 31. The hotel restaurant also has a special rate of £12.50 a person for two courses. Details: 0800 553535.

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RACING: JOCKEY CLUB INTENT ON MINIMISING RISKS AS TRAINING AND RIDING STANDARDS COME UNDER SCRUTINY

Determination to outlaw the bad jumpers

By Dick Hinder

TOUGHER measures to rid National Hunt racing of bad jumpers is the top priority of a wide-ranging Jockey Club report into training and riding standards. The second stage of an inquiry, launched after the accidental death of jockey Richard Davis, recommends bans for horses that regularly fail to complete.

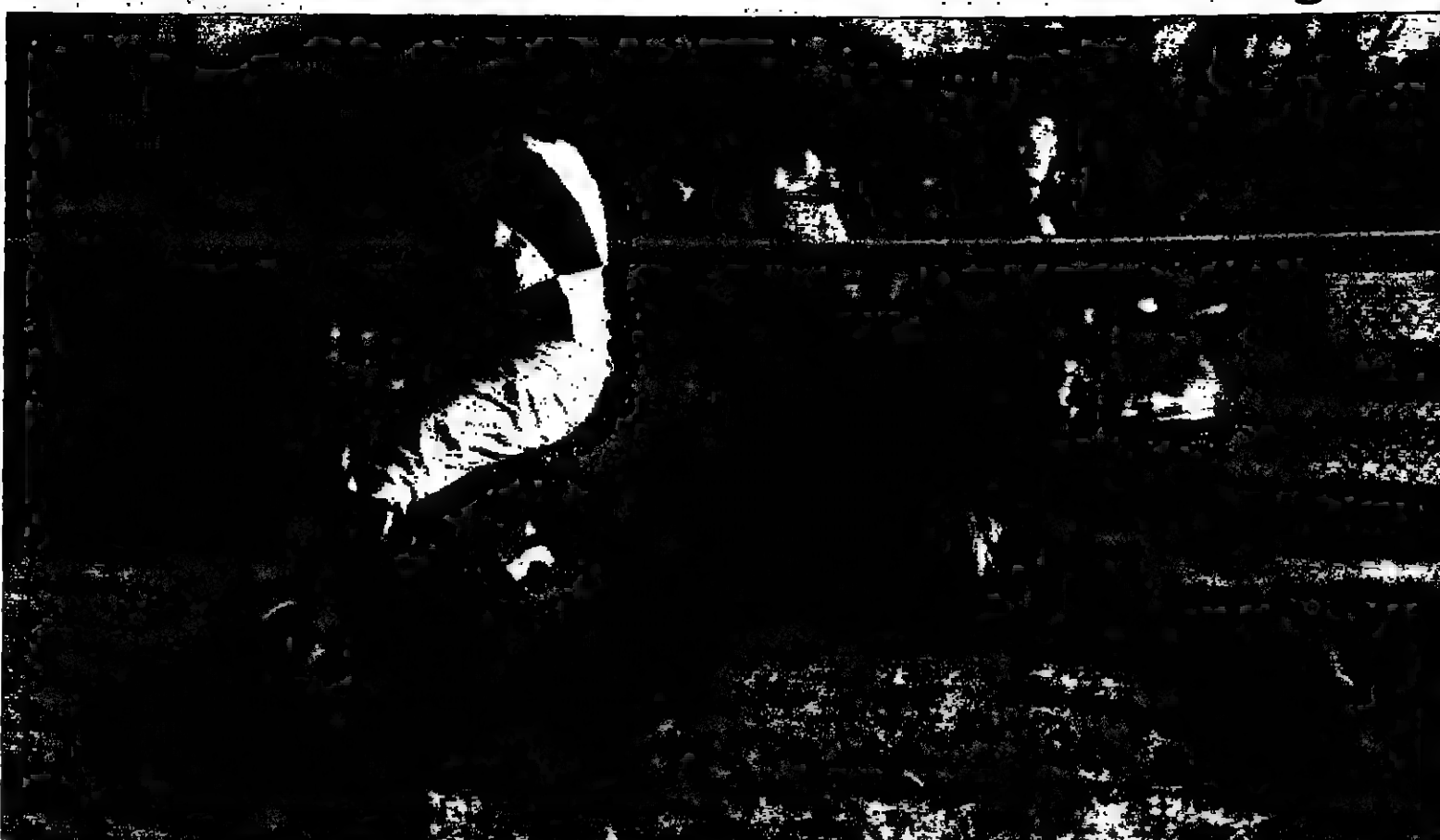
It also proposes more rigorous examination of prospective trainers' knowledge and

Nap: FITZWILLIAM (3.40 Sandown Park)
Next best: Lachaciloch (3.10 Sandown Park).

experience, the level and competence of stable staff and their access to training and schooling facilities. Trainers who fail to meet a minimum performance standard may not have their licence renewed.

The report, published yesterday, also recommends independent assessments of riders' abilities before a licence is granted and announced spot checks on training facilities. In addition, practice hurdles should be trialled and the possibility of holding schooling races discussed.

It follows the publication earlier this week of part one of the inquiry, which examined the circumstances surrounding Davis's death to coincide with the inquest into the death of the jump jockey, who received internal injuries after a fall from Mr Sox at Southwell.



Parting company with fallers is a priority of the Jockey Club as it attempts to improve jumping standards. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

The report will be examined in detail by an investigating group who, in turn, will present their recommendations to the licensing committee, or stewards, where appropriate, for a decision on implementation.

The elimination of horses with little jumping ability heads the list of objectives. Among the safety measures put forward by Davis's parents, John and Ann, is that regularly failing to get round. They would have to pass an assessment before running again and could be banned for the rest of the season if failing on their next outing.

Having failed to complete in three of his four previous outings, Davis's mount Mr Sox, trained by Laura Shally, had the sort of record that may attract Jockey Club scrutiny in future.

In the last two seasons, an average of 33 horses (0.4 per cent) failed to complete on four consecutive runs and 15 (0.17 per cent) either fell, unseated or were brought down three times in a row.

Malcolm Wallace, the Jockey Club's Director of Regulation and a member of the working group, stressed the emphasis of the inquiry is on minimising risk in the sport. "For as long as horses go fast and jump fences, there will be accidents and some of them will be fatal. But we think something can be done to minimise that risk by tackling the problems that exist," he said.

to complete, but they do and there are young jockeys who are prepared to sit on anything," Wallace said. "We have a duty of care to try to ensure that the horses these riders are on are well schooled, if not particularly talented."

He added: "A lot of the top jockeys agree. They've been through this, but they don't want the ones coming up behind them exposed to the same risk. Over 90 per cent of the trainers we spoke to agree too. Some aren't in favour of practice obstacles or schooling races but, by and large, this was a rewarding exercise."

Toby Balding, a member of the National Trainers' Federation Council, welcomed the recommendations.

"Anything that tightens up trainers' responsibilities has to be welcomed. The requirements placed on a licence holder are fair and valid," he said. "It wouldn't be in favour of practice obstacles, and schooling races will just be another expense that the National Hunt fraternity wouldn't stand for."

"I understand what they are saying about bad jumpers, though there are horses I've trained with bad records. For instance, Salehurst spent more time on the ground than not when he wasn't on the ground he was winning. He won a BMW final and on his good days he was a very good horse."

Balding added: "I think it was right that there has been little criticism of Miss Shally. You see falls like Mr Sox don't on a daily basis, but you don't see the horse land on top of the jockey. Usually the rider is thrown clear."

SAILING

Goss shrugs off blow to get back on course

By Edward Gorman
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

PETE GOSS, of Great Britain, yesterday suffered his second knock-down in as many races on board his 50ft Adrian Thompson-designed *Agua Quorum*, as he ran before strong westerly winds through the Roaring Forties in the Vendée Globe single-handed round-the-world race.

Goss was asleep when the boat went over on her side, probably after an involuntary gybe, leaving the swinging keel apparently sticking up out of the water, he told the Paris headquarters.

Just as in the single-handed transatlantic earlier this year, when he was also knocked down, Goss had to get his mainsail off in order to right the stricken yacht. He suffered two broken battens in the mainsail and the loss of two hanks on his jib, but otherwise appears to have emerged unscathed and is racing again.

Ahead of him in sixth place overall, Eric Dumont, of France, on *Café Le Gout*, yesterday decided to continue the race, despite a collision with a lump of ice on Monday that holed his hull.

The BT Global Challenge fleet, meanwhile, is facing another dose of strong Southern Ocean weather after a day of what the crew of *Heath Insured II* described as "another bonus day of blue skies and sun".

The forecast predicts a deep depression to the south of the fleet that will bring strong-to-gale-force northwesterly winds and heavy rain.

The fleet is divided into three, with the leading six led by Mike Golding. Group A followed by *Save The Children* and *Global Teamwork*. After the sixth-placed *Toshima Wave Warrior*, comes a 70-mile gap to *Pause To Remember*, *Nuclear Electric*, *Commercial Union* and *3Com*. There is then a smaller gap of about 45 miles to the last group, led by *Heath Insured II*.

BT Global chart, page 42

SWIMMING

Sprinters hoping to cash in

SWIMMERS have long raced for money on the Continent, but never at a leading championship, at which success has been measured in medals (Craig Lord writes). All that will end over the next four days in Rostock, Germany, as DM 380,000 (about £150,000) is handed to the winners at the inaugural European sprint and short-course championships.

The combination of money and a "fast" pool should make for close, quick racing of the kind that the European Swimming League will need to justify the introduction of the event to a cluttered calendar. The league decided to replace the European sprint championships, which were restricted to races over 50 and 100 metres, with a wider short-course programme to popularise its winter showcase event. However, initial optimism over the numbers of nations and swimmers entering the event has been tempered.

When 28 nations entered more than 300 swimmers in early October, there was much self-congratulation. The number of nations is now up to 30, but the number of competitors has fallen to 250. Absentees include Alexander Popov, Michelle Smith, Franziska van Almsick and others who took lengthy breaks after the Olympic Games.

Great Britain's original 39-strong entry is down to a third of that. The country's previous medal-winners at the main short-course championships, such as Mark Foster, Neil Willey and Ian Wilson, are among the favourites to enjoy a welcome pay-day.

FIXTURES

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FA YLENDRO: Third qualifying round: Buxton v Grimsby (7.30)
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OTHER SPORT
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Unfashionable teams make the running while the giants falter



Three of the world's best: from the left, Ronaldo, of Barcelona, Otero, of Vicenza, and Giggs, of Manchester United. Ronaldo was yesterday reported to have signed a new deal worth £23 million a year

Lukewarm verdict on European leagues

Last Sunday, Florin Raducioiu, the Romanian international striker, went on for West Ham at Upton Park as a substitute against Manchester United, ran United ragged down the left and scored a dramatic goal. A couple of weeks earlier, he had turned up in Brescia to make a token appearance for military service. (He married an Italian and, thus, obtained the nationality.)

Asked how he found English football, he said that he much admired it, but that, of course, it could not be compared with the Italian *campionato*. The fact is, however, that at present, each European league is disappointingly mediocre, each tournament has giants who are faltering, leaving less fashionable teams to make the running. In England, it is Wimbledon; in Italy, Vicenza.

The huge sums of money that satellite television has poured into the Premiership means that, for the first time, English clubs can compete with the Italians for the game's best players, though no club in either country has been able to beat Barcelona for the most brilliant young player in the game, Ronaldo, of Brazil. Yesterday he was reported to have signed a new deal, raising his annual salary to 500 million pesetas (£23 million). Any club wanting to sign him will probably have to pay about ten billion pesetas (£50 million).

But this influx of foreign

talent has failed, disappointingly so far, to raise the general standard of our football. Sandro Mazzola, once a great striker for Internazionale and Italy, believes we are in transition, somewhere between the more physical British style and the more subtle approach of the foreign aces.

That may be true, but the majority of the Premiership games one sees are so prosaic, that there is a temptation to feel that its young millionaires are taking money under false pretences. For where can one find a truly outstanding team? Arsenal's morale keeps getting through, but they are largely predictable and their defence can look clumsy. Liverpool have seemed the great hope, yet they can crash at Blackburn Rovers and slump at home to Sheffield Wednesday.

'Liverpool have seemed the great hope'

Manchester United, despite the tactical aberrations of Alex Ferguson, have somehow reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup and have an excellent chance of progressing against FC Porto in March. With two players of the flair and invention of Giggs and Cantona, anything is possible, but too many of Ferguson's buys — Foborsky and Cruyff, for example — seem ill-conceived.

Last Sunday, at his most morose, Ferguson damned his tired team's performance at West Ham, and would not even acknowledge as a fine goal United's second, the product of a glorious passing move that swept the ball from

Where is the best football in Europe being played?

Brian Glanville on the influx of foreign talent

left to right, then back again for Beckham to score.

Newcastle United have had sporadically distinguished service from Ginola and Albert, but Asprilla remains the mysterious object. Chelsea, now glittering with leading foreign players lured by London, are yet no more consistent than the Chelsea of old, almost trapped by their history. Gullit remains a majestic figure, Zola, Di Matteo,

Vielli, Leboeuf and Petrescu have ability in space... yet look what happened at Leeds and Liverpool?

But what is to be said of Italian football where AC Milan, the champions, are already out of every significant competition? How Fabio Capello, who marvels at their troubles, must privately be smiling. Milan humiliated him last season, when they

have a new contract only if the club won either the league or the Uefa Cup.

Capello, a proud man, agreed to manage Parma, then decided on Real Madrid, who, despite their colossal debts, not only found the money to pay him, but to buy the two dazzling Slavs, Suker and Mijatovic. Both scored in the 2-0 win against Barcelona last weekend.

Milan have lost recently to

little Piacenza in the league and to modest Rosenborg, of Norway, at home in the European Cup Champions' League. It was no surprise when they got rid of their hapless Uruguayan manager, Oscar Washington Tabarez, though some players, notably Paolo Maldini, felt he had been harshly treated and resented the implication that Milan would flourish "only if we're kicked in the seat".

Arrigo Sacchi has returned, presumably to do something of the sort, though Maldini says, ominously, he is more concerned for Tabarez than happy to see Sacchi back. If Sacchi, never a player, insists "you don't have to have been a horse to be a jockey", it recalls Roy Campbell's lines: "They use the snaffle and the bit all right, but where's the bloody horse?" It does not look as if Sacchi's old sparring partner, Roberto Baggio, will last much longer.

Juventus remain in the European Cup as favourites, and have twice dealt, majestically, with Manchester United. Yet, though they beat Inter soundly in the League, they subsequently lost 3-0 at home to them in the Italian Cup. Soon after which, Inter's defence was torn to bits by Milan in the derby match and only Milan's profligate finishing saved Inter from a beating. A fortunate penalty rescued Inter that night and they have been similarly aided in their recent games against Cagliari and Vicenza.

Give Vicenza and their able young manager, Guidolin,

their due. They are supremely well organised, have an exceptional midfielder player in the bald Di Carlo, and two lively strikers in Murgita and Otero, the Uruguayan. Yet this is no super-team.

Mazzola, once so elegant himself, deplores the decline of the creative player in Italian football; as did Zola when he arrived at Chelsea from a Parma team that now misses him severely.

Ajax, who seemed to be showing everyone the way, have gone into freefall since losing the European Cup final last May. Davids and Reiziger, who subsequently joined Milan, have had a depressing season. German football is hardly exciting, with Jürgen Klinsmann threatening to leave a Bayern Munich team that he regards as excessively defensive.

As things stand, Barcelona and Real Madrid seem out on their own. Spain have the most quarter-finalists in the three European competitions: four. The two biggest clubs — neither, ironically, in the European Cup — are surely, at present, Europe's best, even if Bobby Robson's tenure at Barcelona may seem to be under threat. Can there somehow be an inverse ratio between money and quality? Earnings and entertainment? Football has never been so popular, but sometimes you wonder why. Perhaps the answer to the lack of quality is that there is simply far too much of it. Players, after all, are not machines.

FOOTBALL

Rovers reject Eriksson rumours

By Peter Ball and Russell Kempson

BLACKBURN Rovers dismissed reports yesterday that Sven Goran Eriksson, the Swedish coach of Sampdoria, the Italian club, had already signed a five-year, £5 million contract to join them in the summer. Eriksson also failed to confirm them, but added: "English is the second language in Sweden, so I wouldn't have any problems."

While the reports, in both *Corriere dello Sport* and *Tuttosport*, are premature, there seems little doubt that Eriksson is high on Blackburn's list of possible permanent replacements for the long departed Ray Harford. Although, when rumours first connected him to Rovers, Eriksson insisted that he would see out his contract with Sampdoria, which expires in the summer, that is unlikely to prove a problem. With Tony Parkes, the caretaker manager, having considerable success in reviving their season, Blackburn may decide that they can afford to wait until then for a new permanent manager to arrive.

Nevio Scala appeared to throw his hat into the ring yesterday. The former Parma coach, who guided the unfashionable Italian club to the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1993 and the Uefa Cup in 1995 before leaving last

Alan Shearer, the Newcastle United and England striker, joins Ronaldo, of Barcelona, and George Weah, of AC Milan, on the shortlist — drawn up by 120 national coaches — of three players in contention for the Fifa Player of the Year award.

summer, has the advantage of being available immediately. "I could soon be coaching a foreign side," he said.

Mark Hughes is preparing for a busy weekend, playing for Wales against Turkey in a World Cup qualifying tie at the National Stadium, Cardiff, on Saturday and then appearing for Chelsea in their FA Carling Premiership match at Sunderland on Sunday. Hughes, who missed Wales' last game, the 7-1 defeat by Holland in Eindhoven, is hoping to do so, despite having six stitches in a leg wound sustained in a tackle by Brian Deane, the Leeds United striker, last week.

Nine years ago, Hughes played for Wales in Czechoslovakia and then for Bayern Munich in Germany later that evening. "Twice in a day was tough, sheer agony," he said. "I came out for the second half with Bayern feeling absolutely shattered. So twice in two days should not be a problem."

Chris Armstrong, the Tottenham Hotspur striker, has been ruled out for up to six weeks and faces an operation on Monday after being told his damaged ankle will not respond to treatment.

Born Tore Kvarme, 24, the Norway defender, is set to join Liverpool at the end of the year, when his contract with Rosenborg expires. Liverpool will not have to pay a fee because of the Bosman ruling.

Scotland supporters who were in Tallinn on October 9 for the World Cup tie with Estonia that was abandoned because the home side did not turn up, will be given free entry when the game is played in Monaco on February 11.

THE LEADERS IN THE NEW EUROPEAN ORDER

ENGLAND										
Champions: Manchester United										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Arsenal	17	10	5	2	34	16	35			
Wimbledon	16	9	4	3	29	17	31			
Liverpool	16	9	4	3	26	14	31			
Newcastle United	16	9	3	4	26	17	30			
Aston Villa	17	9	3	5	22	15	30			
Manchester United	16	7	8	3	31	24	27			
FRANCE										
Champions: Auxerre										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
AS Monaco	21	12	6	3	38	18	42			
Paris Saint-Germain	21	12	6	3	34	15	42			
Bordeaux	21	10	6	5	28	22	36			
Auxerre	21	9	8	4	28	13	36			
Bordeaux	21	9	7	5	30	23	34			
Strasbourg	21	11	1	9	27	29	34			
HOLLAND										
Champions: Ajax										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
PSV Eindhoven	19	14	3	2	58	14	45			
Feyenoord	18	12	3	3	33	20	39			
Twente Enschede	19	11	4	4	30	15	37			
Vitesse Arnhem	19	9	5	5	31	22	32			
Roda JC Kerkrade	18	8	6	4	21	21	30			
Ajax	19	7	9	3	24	17	30			
ITALY										
Champions: Juventus										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Vicenza	12	6	4	2	21	12	22			
Juventus	11	6	4	1	13	7	22			
Internazionale	12	5	6	1	16	11	21			
Bologna	12	5	2	5	20	10	20			
Napoli	12	5	5	2	17	10	20			
Fiorina	12	4	6	2	19	14	18			
SPAIN										
Champions: Atlético Madrid										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Real Madrid	16	11	5	0	32	12	38			
Deportivo La Coruña	16	10	6	0	24	7	36			
Barcelona	16	10	4	2	48	21	34			
Real Betis	16	9	5	2	33	14	32			
Atlético Madrid	16	8	4	4	27	18	28			
Real Sociedad	16	8	3	5	22	19	27			
GERMANY										
Champions: Borussia Dortmund										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Bayer Munich	17	13	6	1	27	14	38			
Borussia Dortmund	17	10	4	3	38	18	34			
Bayer Leverkusen	17	10	4	3	38	22	34			
VfB Stuttgart	17	9	4	4	39	19	31			
SC Karlsruhe	17	8	4	5	30	20	28			
VfL Bochum	16	7	6	3	23	21	27			

Eurostar frequent traveller programme.

"Notice that the fox who finds soft fruit in the garden returns many times to his new-found Eden"

E. CANTONA

As a frequent traveller, don't you expect a frequent traveller programme? One that awards points towards free Eurostar travel? Tie-ins with Avis, Hilton Hotels, Cathay Pacific, the Orient Express or Virgin Atlantic? Maybe balloon flights and trips to Disneyland Paris? That's what we thought.

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RUGBY UNION

Weary Springboks determined to maintain record

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH AFRICA, tired, cold and four days away from their first rest since February, will field an unchanged XV against Wales in Cardiff on Sunday, the thirteenth international of an exceptional year for the holders of the Webb Ellis trophy.

That they can play the same team that has defeated Argentina and France in four international over the past five weeks is a minor miracle. They have found it hard to resist the conclusion that the tour proper ended in Paris last Saturday — indeed eight members of the tour party have already returned home — and that Wales is an appendage, a gesture made to celebrate the last season of the old Arms Park stadium.

Yet, as professional sportsmen, they accept that there is a job to be done: their preparation has been relaxed this week — chilly weather has driven most of them off the golf course — but they do not intend to let slip their unbeaten international record on tour. "Everyone is gunning for you when you are world champions," André Markgraaff, the coach, said.

He acknowledged that his leading players have been involved in too many games this season — some will have chalked up 50 appearances — but believes that adjustments have to involve not so much the international programme, as the level just below. "I foresee a situation in the professional era where you have more internationals —

after all, that's where the money comes from to pay players — but that cutbacks will be made in provincial rugby," Markgraaff said.

"We may have to make sure that players don't appear in the minor provincial games and that selection in the Super 12 is more careful. We must make sure that all our players are fit and available for the 1997 World Cup."

The same exercise begins in London today when representatives of the Rugby Football Union, its leading clubs and competition chairmen meet to

The Pilkington Cup tie between Newbury and Lydney, scheduled for Saturday, has been postponed because the bacterial infection that is afflicting Newbury players has claimed a ninth victim in Andy Duke, the lock forward, who was taken ill on Tuesday.

discuss the structured season of the future. English administrators are trying to visualise a season in which the leading players appear in no more than 35 games.

Of that number, eight weekends will be given over to internationals — four to the five nations' championship and three or four to the pre-Christmas period. Already England contemplate two games against the touring New Zealanders next season, one of which may be played in the north rather than at Twickenham, and they

already have a date with Australia pencilled in. The criterion is said to be the short tours that the home unions make overseas, during which they customarily play a two-match international series; now they seek to replicate that situation at home.

Meanwhile Argentina, the third of England's opponents within the past four weeks, find space on the right wing for Gonzalo Camardón in their tour finale at Twickenham on Saturday. Camardón, who made his first international appearance against England in 1990 as scrum half to the ageing Hugo Porta, has struggled throughout the tour to recover from a shoulder injury suffered in the first international against South Africa in Buenos Aires on November 9.

This will be his first appearance since then and it is testimony to his all-round skills that he is preferred to the unfortunate Facundo Soler. Camardón, 26 next week, has played for Argentina in every position behind the scrum, mostly recently at centre during the pan-American tournament in September and against South Africa. Soler must be content with a place among the replacements, though José Luis Cilley, whose goalkicking has won matches for his country before, was so out of touch in the 22-17 defeat by England A in Northampton on Tuesday that there is no place for him at all.

Pedro Sporleder, who had to leave the tour at the halfway stage to take professional examinations in New York, rejoins his perennial partner, German Lanes, in the second row in a XV showing five changes from that beaten 44-21 by South Africa four weeks ago.

It will be their 29th game in tandem but the front row is remodelled in the absence of Federico Méndez, now hooking for Bath. Carlos Fromanovic is his replacement, with Mauricio Reggiardo, of Castres, at prop.



Matsura, of Ardingly, left, leaves his two opponents behind in the Independent Schools Tournament yesterday

Wolverhampton regain schools title

By JOHN GODFREY

WOLVERHAMPTON GS are unusually proficient at six-a-side football competitions. In the Independent Schools Tournament at Forest, East London, yesterday, they took the title again by beating Bury GS 2-0 with a display of rare athleticism and composed skill.

Winners in 1994, they lost the final to Hampton last year but yesterday took the title without conceding a goal in the knockout stages, yet they kept their opening qualifying game 1-0 in the morning to Bradford and conceded goals to both Alfreton and Aldenham while finishing second

in their group to reach the last 16. Johnny Johnson, the master in charge of football at Wolverhampton, said: "We understand the tactics of sixes. Anyone who tries to play the strategy of 11-a-side football with six players is going to lose. It is a different game."

This is a flourishing competition. Founded by Brentwood in 1957 to celebrate the centenary of the school, it has now reached saturation point with 32 schools, almost all of whom play football as their main winter sport, taking part.

It is as many as can be accommodated in a day-long tournament and with a simple format. This year, all the schools played at least one

game in the afternoon's plate tournament, extended to the teams who finished third and fourth in their preliminary groups. Hampton beat John Lyon 1-0 in the plate final.

In the main competition, many of the favourites were beaten. Manchester GS, with Lee, the England Under-17 wicketkeeper in goal, have already reached the semi-final of the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup in 11-a-side football this term. However, they lost on penalties to Forest. Ardingly who, together with

Manchester GS were also unbeaten in the same group, lost on penalties to Lancing, who in turn were beaten by

Wolverhampton in the quarter-finals.

Forest, the last southern team in the competition, lost to Bury 2-1 in the semi-final and Wolverhampton defeated Bolton 1-0 in the other semi-final.

Unlike last year, Wolverhampton were composed in the final. In Sedgemoor, playing in the tournament for the third successive year, they had a penetrative forward, while Robinson shuttled energetically between attack and defence.

Sedgemoor converted a first-half penalty and added a second goal from open play.

Results, page 42

RUGBY LEAGUE

Warrington sign Vagana

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

WARRINGTON yesterday signed Nigel Vagana, the utility back who played for Western Samoa in the World Cup, from Auckland Warriors.

Vagana, 21, is expected to take over the role of stand-off half at Widdows.

Alex Murphy, the Warrington director of football, said: "Nigel is one of the hottest properties in the southern hemisphere and has the potential to be a big hit in the Super League. Gone are the days when we brought mediocre players to Widdows and it's a big bonus to sneak him out of New Zealand."

Gary Hetherington, the Leeds chief executive, has signed three players from Sheffield Eagles, his former club. Dean Lawford, the hooker, and the scrum-half, Ryan Sheridan, signed yesterday and the back row forward, Anthony Farrell, an England international, will do so today.

Dean Bell, the Leeds coach, said: "Gary has talked highly of these three players and, when they became available, I did some homework and we agreed that we should sign them."

Lawford and Sheridan, a Great Britain and Under-21 international, said that the presence of Hetherington at Headingley was not the main reason they chose to move up the M1. "When a big club like Leeds comes in for you, it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and you take it," Sheridan said.

The deal, which comes a fortnight after Leeds signed the New Zealand international centre, Richie Blackmore, from Auckland and Paul Sterling, the Hull winger, is expected to cost Leeds close to £200,000.

Sheffield announced their second Australian signing in three days yesterday with the

capture of Rod Doyle, the South Queensland Crushers loose forward. Doyle, 27, who played first-grade rugby for Manly at 19, joins the former North Queensland Cowboys prop, Steve Edmed, at the Don Valley Stadium.

Phil Larder, the Sheffield coach, said: "Rod is top quality and comes highly recommended by Gary O'Brien and Daryl Van de Veldre. He has good ball skills and top quality defence and I look on him as giving us an extra dimension to our attacking play."

Colin Myler, the former managing director and editor of the *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror* newspapers, has been appointed the first chief executive of Rugby League (Europe), the marketing organisation set up by the 12 Super League clubs. Myler, 44, will take up his three-year appointment on January 1.

BOWLS

England ring changes for home series

THERE are five newcomers in the England team that will defend the women's home international title in March. Catherine Anton, Yvonne Lyons, Madeline Ward, Mandy Jacklin and Di Gray have been brought into the team, while Gloria Thomas is recalled and Beryl Alderson, normally a No. 3, will skip. There is a place for Wendy Line, the runner-up in the world outdoor singles championship last August, or for Sandy Hazell, the national indoor singles champion.

TEAM: Rick 1: D Wilson (Bristol), C Anton (Petersborough), J Coulson (York), M Steele (Essex), Rick 2: Y Lyons (Pewsey), M Ward (Gloucestershire), G Thomas (West Glamorgan), M Price (Dorset), Rick 3: L Jackson (Cambridgeshire), M Joslin (Petersborough), E Bessell (North), S Alderson (North), Rick 4: K Haines (Cheshire), M E. Roberts (Gloucestershire), I. Threlkeld (Gloucestershire), N Shaw (Thames Valley), Rick 5: S. Heston (King George), D Gray (Leamington), Rick 6: E. Turner (Gloucestershire), M. Oyer (Gloucestershire), D. Heston (Essex), Rick 7: E. Turner (Gloucestershire), M. Oyer (Gloucestershire), D. Heston (Essex), Rick 8: E. Turner (Gloucestershire), M. Oyer (Gloucestershire), D. Heston (Essex), Rick 9: E. Turner (Gloucestershire), M. Oyer (Gloucestershire), D. Heston (Essex), Rick 10: E. Turner (Gloucestershire), M. Oyer (Gloucestershire), D. Heston (Essex), Rick 11: E. Turner (Gloucestershire), M. Oyer (Gloucestershire), D. Heston (Essex), Rick 12: E. 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Deadly diesel oil, dullards and dilettantes

Yucky stuff in *The X-Files* last night (BBC1). The episode was called *Apocrypha* — heaven knows why. But it followed up last week's story, and clarified a few things. Why did people's eyes keep darkening with black flies? Because aliens were using diesel oil as a medium. What? "I think it's a medium," said Mulder, peering at a test-tube. "They are using it to body-jump." Scully's white stone face registered mild scepticism, but as usual, Mulder was dead right. Those possessed of the alien diesel oil sometimes vomited black rivers, with tributary black streams gushing from their eyes. This unlikely trick was performed for the first time, I regret to say, just as I was lifting a forkful of dinner to my lips.

But over on BBC2 at the same time, *Modern Times* concerned middle-aged men to whom the smell of diesel oil is very bliss. The

Power and the Glory, directed by Lucy Jago, followed the fortunes of two rival speedboat drivers: Cliff, from Littlehampton, a self-made man with tattoos and gold chains; and Charles, a Canadian multi-millionaire in a cowboy hat. Both were in contention for the *Needles Cup*, and the documentary certainly crossed the starting line with what appeared to be a lot of poke under the bonnet — the personal rivalry, the sea-spray thrill of the race, and the very contrast between the contestants' lifestyles. Cliff's tank business, for example, entailed the handling of doggy-poo bins. Meanwhile Charles idled his days driving a tank (the other sort of tank) in circles on the front lawn, with a Palladian portico behind.

But it was funny how it turned out. While *The Power and the Glory* remained an enjoyable film, it sort-of floated in a becalmed, chip-chippy way rather than ever getting fired up. The race for the

Needles Cup duly took place, Cliff broke down, Charles won. It then another race at Cowes promised to settle matters. Cliff broke down again, Charles got a big wreath and a European championship. As for the red-hot rivalry, the men displayed minimal animosity. And as for the thrill of the race, the grey, driver's-eye-view from a boat travelling at high speed turns out to be rather disappointing. Where is the skill, anyway? Is it just a matter of gripping a steering wheel and not letting go?

The annoying thing was, each of the men made an interesting individual story. Charles cut quite a pathetic figure — all that money, but no real friends; a grand house, but empty. Poor little rich boy, he'd been lonelier all his life. But for all the sympathy he was shown, no explanation was offered for his featured obsession: ie, beating



Lynne Truss

people less well off than himself at power-boats. If danger is the buzz, other pursuits are equally perilous. Cliff's obsession was easier to understand, because he clearly loved his boat as a machine. Charles, predictably, employed mechanics to deal with the oily-rag stuff, leaving him free to dress up for parties or trim his moustache. Ho hum, I sometimes think that if there were no rich people with

big houses, there would be nothing to watch on telly these days. Rejoicing in the most cumbersome title of recent times, *Enterprise Culture Revisited* (BBC2) invites us to gloat at well-walked people who boomed and bust in the 1980s — and much as it is bad manners to gloat, you can't help watching agog, and occasionally thinking "lee hee". Last night's subject (the second in the series) was a self-made funeral services entrepreneur called Howard Hodgson, who retired from his own business at the age of 40 in 1989, and has kicked his heels ever since, the allure of pokey power-boats somehow passing him by.

He was quite a dull man, actually. The most interesting things about him were his favoured haircut (long, shaggy footballer style) and his belief that he was (or had ever been) a household name. His son and he had inherited this famous handle, and

complained about it: one day he hoped to be Howard Hodgson in his own right, not overshadowed by his famous dad. Someone ought to reassure the poor youth: "Don't worry, most people have never heard of Howard Hodgson," but I suspect this is not what he really wants to hear.

Archive stuff from the late 1980s brought the story to life. A documentary about Hodgson's posh empire, in which he posed for colour supplements amid satin-lined coffins, wore a natty hat, and daily purchased small Clacton-on-Sea undertakers firms the way other people buy fags. This telly moment was evidently the source of his surprising belief that, at some point in his career, he stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Richard Branson (or, as Hodgson called him, "Richard"). Should Hodgson have turned to balloon-racing or

other dangerous sports? Perhaps he should. When he relinquished his business, evidently his competitive instincts turned to drinking beer and getting girlfriends, with the result that his marriage broke up. "Forty is too young to retire," he said, choosing his words with care. "If you're still got lead in your pencil."

Now, with his son at his side, he promotes Ronson lighters and wristwatches to the "male grooming" market, which targets men in three categories as Rebels, Racers and something else beginning with R. What sort was he, if he wasn't a Racer? A Rebel, of course. And by rebel, he means (with a chuckle) the sort of person who would run over a Newbury by-pass protester. Well, I had no idea there'd be a wristwatch designed with that specific character trait in mind. It just goes to show, *Enterprise* culture clearly never went away.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am **BUSINESS BREAKFAST** (32270)
 - 7.00 **BBC Breakfast News** (1) (50831)
 - 9.00 **Breakfast News Extra** (1) (199138)
 - 9.45 **STYLE CHALLENGE** (4874305)
 - 9.50 **KILROY** (5600454)
 - 10.30 **CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK** (56678)
 - 11.00 **NEWS** (1), regional news and weather (3303088)
 - 11.05 **The Really Useful Show** Consumer advice (5384251) - 11.45 *Smile's People* (734742)
 - 12.00 **NEWS** (1), regional news and weather (3303088)
 - 12.05pm **Snowy River** — the McGregor Saga (347259) 12.50 *A Different Country Practice*. The general practitioner (1) (3071009)
 - 1.00 **NEWS** (1) and weather (30218) 1.30 *Regional News and Weather* (5657562)
 - 1.40 **NEIGHBOURS** (1) (29751638) 2.00 *Call My Bluff* (1953) 2.30 *The Terrace* Do-it-yourself advice (323) 3.00 *Inconito* (178)
 - 3.30 **PINOCCHIO** (1) (5015386) 3.50 *The Family Ness* (1) (5043831) 3.55 *The Itchy Bit* Spider (5918473) 4.20 *Julia Jelby* and *Hamlet Hyde* (1) (5048831) 4.35 *Smart* (1) (7828473) 4.50 *Newsround* (1) (5280334) 5.10 *The Biz* Drama series set in a school of dance and drama (1) (5048831)
 - 5.35 **NEIGHBOURS** (1) (344116)
 - 6.00 **NEWS** (1) and weather (567)
 - 6.30 **REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES** (947)
 - 7.00 **WATCHDOG** Consumer magazine presented by Anne Robinson (1) (2905)
 - 7.30 **EASTENDERS** Peggy has some shocking news for the family. Tiffany lays down some rules and it's decision time for Alan (1) (831)
 - 8.00 **ANIMAL HOSPITAL DOWN UNDER** The first of two programmes from Australia. Tonight Rolf Harris joins vets working in the Cumbrian Wildlife Sanctuary, Queensland (1/2) (1) (1857)
 - 8.30 **2POINT4 CHILDREN** Ben goes to great lengths to become a member of a plumbers' secret society. With Gary Olsen and Beifrida Lang (1) (1544)
 - 9.00 **NEWS** (1), regional news and weather (4102)
 - 9.30 **THE THIN BLUE LINE** As Gershford Football Club win through to the second round of the FA Cup, Grahame looks forward to tackling some football hooligans (1) (8673)
 - 10.00 **CROCODILE SHOES** Jed's sister is charged with Pepp's murder, leaving Jed to care for his niece and raise the money for her defence. Starring Jimmy Nail (1) (18729)
 - 10.50 **QUESTION TIME** Introduced by David Dimbleby. In Manchester. The guests include MPs Roger Freeman and Liz Lynne (1) (391454)
 - 11.15 **CLIVE ANDERSON ALL TALK** With Diana Ross (1) (774218)
 - 12.30am **FILM: The Amazing Colossal Man** (1957, b/w). A B-movie about an American Army colonel who is exposed to an overdose of radiation and grows to an alarming rate. Then, directed by Bert I. Gordon (1) (1457110)
 - 1.50 **WEATHER** (3242655)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder to automatically switch to a VideoPlus+ channel. Tip in the Video PlusCode for the programme you want to watch. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of the Video Plus Group, a subsidiary of Gannett Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

DAY 1

- 7.00am **Live Connection** (408188) 7.30 *Prime Time Live* (408188) 7.40 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 8.10 *Hotel* (303031) 8.30 *News* (303031) 8.45 *Open* (303031) 9.00 *Prime Time Live* (408188) 9.10 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 9.40 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 10.00 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 10.30 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 10.40 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 10.50 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 11.00 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 11.10 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 11.20 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 11.30 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 11.40 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 11.50 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 12.00 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 12.10 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 12.20 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 12.30 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 12.40 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 12.50 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 1.00 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 1.10 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 1.20 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 1.30 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 1.40 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 1.50 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 2.00 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 2.10 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 2.20 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 2.30 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 2.40 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 2.50 *Jeopardy!* (303031) 3.00 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BOXING 42

Bowe shapes up after mother of all reprimands

SPORT

THURSDAY DECEMBER 12 1996

BRYANT'S EYE 46

Police take steps to run joggers off Britain's roads

Five-wicket haul seals Test place

Hostile Gough gets back into England groove

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO (second day of four): Matabeleland, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 153 runs behind England

IT IS hard to get excited about a near full-strength England side having the better of a team that most county sides would expect to dismiss for well under 200 in the helpful conditions prevailing here, but the touring team had reason to be pleased with the way things went at the Athletic Club yesterday.

Darren Gough took five wickets and bowled perhaps as well as he has done for an England side since he made his name at Sydney two years ago, and it was all but resolved that Andrew Caddick will play in the first Test match next Wednesday in preference to Ronnie Irani.

Matabeleland finished on 181 for nine, four runs short of avoiding the follow-on, though England will want to avoid themselves of the opportunity to bat again today before, presumably, completing a resounding victory tomorrow. Gough has experienced frustration and disappointment aplenty after he was hyped to heaven on the back of one fine, all-round performance in a Test match in Australia. He has fractured a foot, often failed to do justice to his talent, and even when he did, found himself ignored by

the selectors. Even after his performance yesterday, he did not have the confidence to take it for granted that he would play in the first Test, but he is now certain — if he was not already — to be sharing the new ball with Mullaney.

"This is a big chance for me and I hope to take it," he said. "I want to play against the Australians next year, but it is not going to be easy over here. We can't underestimate Zimbabwe. They have played well against us so far and we are

going to play on good pitches. We'll all have to earn our wickets."

It took him his eight-over opening spell, during which he dismissed Guy Whittall and Randich with successive balls, to loosen up, and it was then that the training that England have done paid dividends. He returned to take wickets in the opening overs of his second and third spells and got the ball to bounce and carry through to Stewart impressively. No sooner had he left the field than he ran a circuit of the boundary to "run down" and be ready to hunt a sixth wicket this morning.

On the evidence of this side, Matabeleland are woefully short of high-quality batsmen and few of those on view appeared to have the stomach for the fight. The first over, bowled by Gough, sent them a warning. Guy Whittall survived a strong appeal for leg-before to the first ball and the second hit him a painful blow in the abdomen.

Caddick responded by banging the ball in short to Rennie, who obliged by top-edging to Tufnell. Fortunately, Caddick soon learnt the need to pitch the ball up, something that escaped him in Harare. He had the left-handed Dekker caught in the slips seeking to cut the ball over gully, a stroke that served the home side well. It was a sure sign that the England seamers did not always bowl straight.

James took full advantage in making the top score of 62 and it required some astute bowling from Tufnell to remove him and Streak who struck a bright 25. Both were deceived by extra light into giving the left-arm spinner return catches.

Caddick has yet to convince anyone that he will be a match-winner in the Tests, but neither has Irani. His sorry tour continued as he again failed to look the part of an all-rounder. He made no impression with the ball, having earlier scored only five before driving loosely at Mbawana.

Irani's future participation depends in part on the fragility of the ball, as witnessed yesterday by the loss of the last five wickets for 69. It makes it all the more important that the top six do not miss out. Thorpe's failures have been thus all the more worrying. He pushed half-heartedly at Streak in the third over of the day.

ENGLAND vs First Innings
N V Irani c G J Whittall b Rennie 114
M A Atherton b Gough 42
J A Stewart c G J Whittall b Streak 28
N Haseeb c Jermol b Gough 26
G P Thorpe c James b Streak 15
J P Crawley c James b Streak 15
R C Jones c Gough b Mullaney 63
R D B Croft c G J Whittall b Rennie 8
D Gough bow b G J Whittall 10
A R Caddick not out 10
P C H Tufnell c James b G J Whittall 10
Streak (to S, to S, W, W, no R) 10
Total 284

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-100, 3-125, 4-215, 5-240, 6-261, 7-274, 8-312, 9-315
BOWLING: Gough 14.4-43.2, Streak 19.3-55.3, G J Whittall 14.4-40.2, Mullaney 19.3-50.1, Rennie 17.4-52.2, Vaghmare 5.0-9.0, A R Whittall 6.1-29.0

MATABELELAND: First Innings
G J Whittall c Irani b Gough 79
J A Rennie c Tufnell b Caddick 20
M H Dekker c Gough b Caddick 20
M Randich c Stewart b Gough 10
T W R James c and b Tufnell 62
M D Atkinson c Stewart b Gough 25
H H Streak c and b Tufnell 25
D Vaghmare b Gough 12
A R Whittall b Gough 7
H K Gough not out 5
M Mwanangwe not out 5
Extras (2, 2, 10, 5) 22
Total (9 wickets) 161

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-32, 3-48, 4-104, 5-142, 6-154, 7-172, 8-173
BOWLING: Gough 16.1-52.5, Caddick 12.1-35.2, Irani 7.3-26.0, Tufnell 15.3-35.2, Croft 5.0-18.0
Umpires: R Tilly and J Cooney

LIVERPOOL are getting to know Scandinavia quite well. After matches in Denmark last season and Finland this, they will play their first European match of 1997 in Norway.

The draw yesterday for the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals, to be played in March, paired them with SK Brann Bergen. In the UEFA Cup, Newcastle United face what should be a warmer trip in every sense, against AS Monaco. It is their second successive game against French opposition.

Newcastle at least avoided Internazionale, the favourites, who meet Anderlecht, but that was the extent of their good fortune. Unlike Liverpool, they are at home in the first leg.

"Monaco are one of the top two clubs in France, and this is as tough as they come," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "They have good experience in Europe, some great players, and they beat Hamburg quite convincingly."

"We'll need to play better than at home to Metz and we know we can do that. If we

play the way we are capable of, then we can go all the way."

Monaco are the French league leaders. As well as SV Hamburg — who had previously beaten Celtic — they have eliminated Borussia Mönchengladbach, conquerors of Arsenal. With Victor Ikpeba and the Brazilian, Sonny Anderson, they are as dangerous in front of goal as Newcastle themselves.

"I think everyone would have wanted to avoid the favourites, so we're quite pleased," Peter Beardsley, the Newcastle forward, said. "It's

a magnificent stadium there, and I am sure our fans will enjoy the trip."

The Cup Winners' Cup is often thought to be the weakest of the three European competitions, but the draw paved the way for a semi-final quarter to match any, keeping Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain — the holders — and Liverpool apart. That left Benfica against Fiorentina as the best-balanced tie, but after their defeat by Brondby in the UEFA Cup last season, Liverpool have reason to be wary.

"At least we've avoided the bigger teams, but there's been a big improvement in Scandinavian football over the past few years and we always find them to be organised, strong, fit and difficult to beat," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said.

SK Brann, who beat PSV Eindhoven in the last round, are certainly that, while Rosenborg's stunning victory over AC Milan in the European Cup Champions' League last week shows how far Norwegian football has come.

Mediocrity rules, page 44
Eriksson rumours, page 44

European Cup Winners' Cup
SK Brann Bergen v Liverpool
Benfica v AC Fiorentina
Paris Saint-Germain v AEK Athens
Benfica v Fiorentina
First leg March 6, second leg March 20

UEFA Cup
Schalke 04 v Valencia
Tottenham v Brondby
Newcastle United v AS Monaco
Anderlecht v Internazionale
First leg March 4, second leg March 18

European Cup
Barcelona Dortmund v Austria
Ajax v Atletico Madrid
Rosenborg v Juventus
Manchester United v FC Porto
First leg March 5, second leg March 19

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The Barcelona sun rises on Mansell's possible return to Formula One as he takes to the road again yesterday. Photograph: Mike Cooper/Allsport

Mansell moves closer to final fling

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN BARCELONA

HE CLIMBED from the cockpit dressed in a suit of gold and wandered, smiling, towards the shadows at the rear of the Jordan garage. He put his hands against the cheek of one of his engineers to indicate how fierce the wind chill was out on the track. Still he smiled. Yesterday, here at the Circuit de Catalunya, Nigel Mansell came in from the cold.

Eighteen months ago, at this circuit in the hills above the city, Mansell limped out of his last grand prix, hobbled by an uncompetitive McLaren-Mercedes, dogged by others' doubts about his motivation and surrounded by uncertainty about whether he would return to Formula One. It seemed like an ignominious end to a great career that contained 31 grand prix victories.

Yesterday, though, the mood could not have been more different when he slid back behind the wheel for the first time since. This was the confident, swashbuckling Mansell of old, hurtling his way round the circuit, trailing hordes of journalists and photographers in his wake. By the end of the day, there were growing signs that the driver who won the world championship with Williams in 1992 and the IndyCar championship the year after, considers forcing a viable vehicle for a last fling next season.

Despite initial scepticism about his reasons for taking part in the two-day test here, the desire to make a comeback to the sport he graced for so long still burns intensely. Mansell talked in terms of his time in the motor racing

wilderness, time spent lowering his golf handicap from five to one, as being a "no man's land". "Racing has been in my blood for 20 years," he said. "You do not forget."

Mansell stunned the Irish team on his first run yesterday by driving close to the time set by his prospective teammate, Ralf Schumacher, the younger brother of Michael, a grand prix novice but one who has had the benefit of more than 3,000km of testing in the last few weeks.

He chipped away at Schumacher's time for the rest of the day and, by the late afternoon, when he had com-

pleted 49 laps of the three-mile circuit, he had brought himself within three tenths of a second of the young German's mark.

He was the slowest of the nine drivers testing here yesterday but, after such a long absence, that seemed irrelevant. "If you have never lost it," Mansell said at a press conference, "then you do not have much to regain."

Eddie Jordan, the team owner, tried to play down the significance of yesterday's events but it is clear that he and his title sponsors, Benson and Hedges, are keen to secure Mansell's signature, especially after losing out to TWR Arrows in the race for Damon Hill, the world champion, at the end of last season.

Even Jordan, though, admitted that his would be "a willing pair of ears" when he and Mansell begin to discuss the terms of a deal, probably some time next week. There is a feeling spreading within the team that, even at 43, Mansell could be the catalyst to take them the final step towards the elusive goal of the team's first win.

"It is a great honour to have Nigel in the car here," Jordan said. "The first three laps made such an impact. It showed he has still got the commitment and the belief. That is one of his biggest assets — total and absolute commitment, and belief in his own talents. A few of the young drivers out there today could learn some things from that."

There is little doubt, too, that the prospect of spearheading the popular Irish team's chase for glory is growing increasingly appealing to Mansell. He remained circumspect about the prospects of lining up for the Australian Grand Prix in March, the opening race of the season, but there were hints in his words that he may decide to give it a go.

"Next year, if all the potential they have comes to fruition, they could be competing with the top three teams," Mansell said. "I think there is a 60-60 chance. I will be driving in Formula One next season. I would like to, but we will see. There are so many things that have to be sorted out. It needs all parties to come together for the right reasons and we will probably explore that in the not too distant future."



An enthusiastic Mansell discusses the fine points of his first day's testing with Jordan technicians



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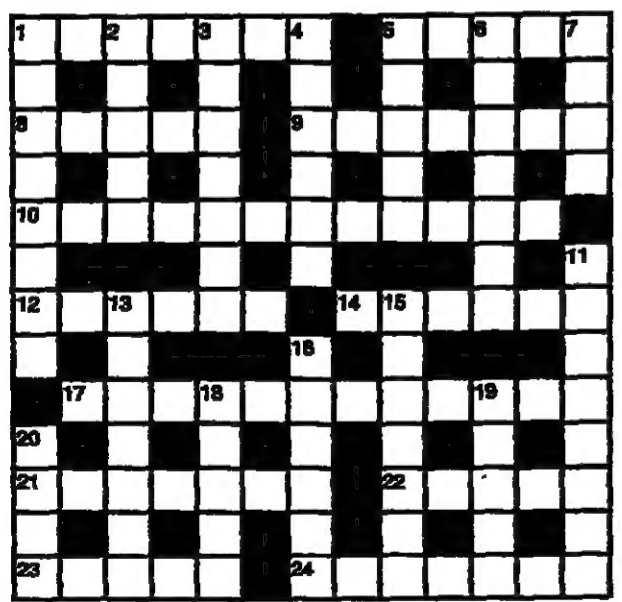
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 - S American mountains (5)
 - Of birds (5)
 - Halt (4)

British Midland The Airline for Europe

PRIZES: THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling Economy Class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6836, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 962
ACROSS: 7 Bait 8 Laughter 9 Kindness 10 Link 11 Walrus 13 Icarus 15 Nephew 17 Gabbie 19 Stur 21 Orbiting 23 Well-read 24 Exit
DOWN: 1 Marinade 2 Glider 3 Blue 4 Quisling 5 Childie 6 Mean 12 Sawbones 14 Atlantis 16 Harold 18 Butler 20 Leek 22 Bide